



Government Information Committee

**NASEMSO Annual Meeting 2014
Cleveland Public Auditorium
LL05-A**

**October 6, 2014
11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.**

Meeting Record

Attending: Jim DeTienne (MT), Chair, Dale Adkerson (OK), Michael Berg (VA), Dennis Blair (AL), Gary Brown (VA), Greg Brown (AR), Andy Gienapp (WY), Candace Hamilton (OR), Joe House (KS), Chuck O'Neal (KY), Paul Phillips (KY), Keith Wages (GA), Scott Winston (VA), Donnie Woodyard (LA), Mary Hedges (NASEMSO Program Manager)

Welcome and Introductions – Jim DeTienne welcomed all in attendance. He explained that NASEMSO is regenerating this committee, which has been fairly dormant the past few years. The Board of Directors recognized the need to reactivate the Government Information Committee (GIC) as it decided to leave Advocates for EMS. Jim previously created a work group, chaired by Paul Patrick, to advise how to proceed with the GIC Committee. The work group made its recommendations in May.

Review and Approval of August 4 Meeting Record – Jim DeTienne referred attendees to the August 4th meeting record which contains the work group's recommendations as it pertains to the GIC.

Advocates for EMS Update – Jim DeTienne explained that NASEMSO officially withdrew as a supporting member of Advocates for EMS at the end of calendar year 2013. He continued serving as President of Advocates for EMS until recently.

Membership of the Committee – Jim asked if there was a need to have a defined committee membership or open up the teleconference meetings to all interested NASEMSO members. Gary Brown strongly recommended having a defined membership, which he felt would generate a more regular attendance at meetings. Dale Adkerson recommended having a structured membership with members appointed from their respective regions.

There was discussion about appointing a vice-chair for the Committee, as recommended in the previous meeting. The vice chair would be able to run the meeting in the chair's absence or serve as chair should the chair not be able to complete his or her term. Donnie Woodyard (LA) volunteered to serve as Vice-Chair of the Committee.

Jim asked if the GIC should focus on advocacy or information? There is some concern about NASEMSO becoming involved in lobbying and what restrictions we may have in this regard. The Committee could recommend positions on legislative matters to the Board.

Jim noted that the money that previously went to Advocates for EMS should be available (\$27,500) but Gary Brown (Treasurer) stated that money is not presently in the budget that has been prepared for the Board. Discussion occurred as to whether NASEMSO needs to or should hire a lobbyist, even if it could afford one. Jim also posed the question as to whether we would want to hire any NASEMSO alumni to serve in this role?

Jim asked for suggestions as to positions the Committee should take. Dale Adkerson suggested establishing a better relationship with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) regarding air medical issues. The DEA was another federal agency with which we need to establish a relationship, as noted by Greg Brown, due to the varying interpretations of different regions.

ASTHO Affiliate Council Report – Mary Hedges reported that she and Paul Patrick attended the ASTHO Affiliate Council Meeting in September. She found the meeting to be very informative and an excellent vehicle for interacting with other health-related associations. ASTHO has been working on developing a minimum package of public health services, including a Public Health foundation Capabilities document. This document does not mention EMS, which she brought to their attention. Mary also participates in regular conference calls with this group where updates are provided about issues of common interest on Capitol Hill.

Strategic Plan – Jim DeTienne said the Committee should have a strategic work plan similar to the Councils and other Committees. He offered to begin work on creating the work plan.

Future Meetings – Jim asked how frequently the committee should meet. Some members recommended meeting on a bi-monthly or quarterly basis. No decision was reached on a meeting schedule.

Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 12:30 PM.

The meeting record was respectfully prepared and submitted by Program Manager Mary Hedges.