



NASEMSO Government Information Committee

MEETING RECORD

January 16, 2018

3:00 PM EST

Attending – Paul Patrick (UT), Dale Adkerson (OK), Carolina Roberts Santana (RI), Dr. Ritu Sahni (NAEMSP), Suzanne Prentiss (NASEMSO-REPLICA), Mary Hedges (NASEMSO), Dia Gainor (NASEMSO)

Call to Order / Call Roll / Approve Agenda – Paul Patrick, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:05 PM EST.

Review and Approve Meeting Minutes (attached) – The September 19th Meeting record was approved as submitted. The Committee did not meet in November.

Stop, Observe, Ask & Respond (SOAR) to Health & Wellness Act of 2017.” H.R. 767 / S. 256

Mary reported that these companion bills, introduced in 2017, recently came to NASEMSO’s attention. The legislation would authorize and fund a pilot program to train health care providers to identify potential human trafficking victims. The House bill has 11 cosponsors and the Senate version has 6 cosponsors. For more information, see

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/767/text>

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-bill/256/text>

NAEMSP Legislative Initiatives – Ritu Sahni, chair of the NAEMSP Advocacy Committee, reported that the committee has met and identified some priorities. The “DEA bill” (Protecting Patient Access to Emergency Medications Act) was signed into law in November of 2017, and they are looking forward to engaging with the DEA as they proceed with the rulemaking process. It is now technically legal for EMS to administer controlled substances via standing order. He has heard that some EMS agencies were able to obtain a DEA license, even though the rules have not been promulgated. They are working with Rep. Hudson (NC) to begin a process for valuing EMS medical direction, create an advisory panel for quality in EMS and look at implementing some of the recommendations by NASEM regarding cardiac arrest. The reauthorization of PAHPA is another priority with the possibility of addressing EMS needs. NAEMSP is holding its Government Relations Academy this year on April 10th, the day before EMS on the Hill. NAEMSP announced the formation of the EMS Political Action Committee (PAC), and were able to raise \$50,000 during the first week. They are willing to accept any donation amount. Those donating \$250 or more will receive the EMS challenge coin. There are additional prizes for higher contributions. See [NAEMSP PAC 2018](#)

NAEMT EMS on the Hill Day, April 11 – The annual event sponsored by NAEMT has been scheduled for April 11th. More information is available at <http://www.naemt.org/home>



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Other Legislative Initiatives – Dia reported that IAFC and NAEMT recently asked NASEMSO to support [H. R. 3236](#), **Ambulance Medicare Budget and Operations Act of 2017**, which would continue the ground ambulance service extenders to 2023 (due to expire in 2018). The American Ambulance Association supports [S.967](#), **Medicare Ambulance Access, Fraud Prevention, and Reform Act of 2017**. The major difference in the two bills are the cost reporting requirement, with the Senate bill's cost reporting provision purportedly less onerous than the House version. Dr. Sahni said NAEMSP was also asked but declined to endorse one version over the other rather than get into the fray between member organizations.

State Legislation Roundtable

- **Oklahoma** - Dale reported that the financial situation in the Oklahoma Health Department continues to be a concern due to the Oklahoma's current financial situation.
- **REPLICA** - Sue reported that in addition to the 12 REPLICA states, four states have filed REPLICA bills so far, this year, including **Missouri, South Carolina, Nebraska, New Hampshire**. They hope that Kentucky will also be filing a bill this year. The IAFF continues to oppose REPLICA. The REPLICA Commission has met twice so far, once in person and once by teleconference. The Rules Committee is chaired by Wayne Denny. More is available at the website [EMS REPLICA](#). Dr. Sahni offered to assist when the bill is introduced in Oregon as REPLICA is supported by NAEMSP.
- **Ban the Box** (limiting use of felony checkbox) – Andy Gienapp was not on the call to report any further information. Paul Patrick said the issue is arising in Utah, but should not impact EMS. Sue Prentiss said that fewer than 20 states require FBI fingerprint checks for EMS licensees, which REPLICA would address.
- **Air Medical** – Ritu said NAEMSP has been asked to endorse the AAMS-supported bill known as SOAR, but NAEMSP generally prefers not to take a position when similar bills are supported by different member organizations.

Adjourn – The meeting adjourned at 3:40 PM EST.

Next Meeting – March 20, 2018

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