



## Government Information Committee

March 17, 2015

### MEETING RECORD

#### **Attendance:**

Kyle Thornton (NM)	Mary Hedges (NASEMSO)	Robert Seesholtz (TN)
Dale Adkerson (OK)	Katherine Hert (AL)	Dr. Peter Taillac (UT)
Gary Brown (VA)	Helen Huitt (AR)	Keith Wages (GA)
Dean Cole (NE)	Dr. Brent Myers (NAEMSP)	Donnie Woodyard (LA)
Dia Gainor (NASEMSO)	Dr. Ritu Sahni (NAEMSP)	

**Welcome and Roll Call** – Kyle Thornton, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:01 PM EDT, noting that Jim DeTienne was not able to join the meeting today.

**Review and Approval of January 20th Meeting Record** – Kyle Thornton asked if there were any changes to the January meeting record. Rob Seesholtz moved that the January 20, 2015 meeting record be approved, noting his last name was misspelled. Keith Wages seconded the motion. Approved Unanimously.

**Review and Approval of CDC Coalition and EMS for Children Letters** - Kyle referred to the letter to Congress requesting support at \$21 million for the EMSC program, which is comparable to last year's budget, but slightly higher than the President's budget of \$20 million. Donnie Woodyard moved / Katherine Hert seconded that the Committee recommend to the Board that NASEMSO sign on to the letter. The motion passed unanimously. The CDC Coalition letter in support of the CDC Prevention Programs was also reviewed. Dean Cole moved / Donnie Woodyard seconded that the GIC recommend to the Board that NASEMSO sign on to the letter. The motion passed unanimously.

**Review NRHA Advocacy Document** – Kyle referred to the National Rural Health Association's Advocacy Guide, which Jim recommended the GIC consider as a model or template. Several people commented they liked the document, particularly the Rapid Response team for responding to last minute requests. Some members were unclear as to how the committee could use it, especially if NASEMSO already has a process in place. Kyle asked members to look more closely at the document and send comments within the next 2-3 weeks. Keith Wages suggested that the document be discussed informally during the Mid Year Meeting.

**Review list of liaisons / discussion** – Kyle asked members to review the NASEMSO liaison list, which is in need of updating. He was impressed that NASEMSO had

liaisons to so many organizations. Dia explained that the list had originally housed at headquarters and Jim DeTienne moved this list into an access database which generated this report. It was noted that several of the organizations do not exist anymore. Ritu Sahni added that NAEMSP has the same problem with keeping their liaison list up to date. Kyle offered to talk to Jim about updating the list. Keith suggested waiting until talking with Jim before proceeding with the liaison list.

**Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant** – Kyle Thornton reported that the Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant has been zeroed out in the President’s budget for the last 5 years, but they have been able to get it funded each year. Kyle will be attending the PHHS Block Grant meeting in April in Atlanta, as he is the PHHS Block Grant Coordinator for New Mexico. Several state EMS offices receive a substantial amount of their funding from the PHHS Block Grant.

**DEA Issues / Collaboration with NAEMSP & ACEP** – Dr. Peter Taillac provided background on the issue, noting that the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) has taken an interest in EMS. Unfortunately, the Controlled Substances Act does not address EMS. The DEA is preparing to promulgate rules to address EMS but is unable to change the Controlled Substances Act. Dr. Ritu Sahni said that since the NAEMSP meeting in January (which DEA officials attended), they have met by conference call with DEA officials. NAEMSP is becoming more aggressive in pursuing this. They feel that legislative action regarding the Controlled Substances Act is more important than ever. They met with legislative staffers who were very interested in fixing this. There are carve outs for telemedicine and veterinarians, and there could be a carve out for EMS. Lisa Tofil is working on draft language, which would allow an EMS agency to have its own DEA license (that is where there is so much variety in interpretation by different DEA regions). Dr. Brent Myers thanked NASEMSO for inviting NAEMSP members to the call, which shows how far NASEMSO and NAEMSP have come. Dale Adkerson thanked everyone for taking on this issue because it has been a major issue in Oklahoma. Peter asked how NASEMSO can help at this point. Brent said they are on a pretty good track, but will reach out to Peter (and the MDC) to ask that someone from the Medical Directors Council assist on short notice. Mary Hedges asked Drs. Sahni and Meyers to explain NAEMSP’s new advocacy efforts for the benefit of the committee. Ritu said NAEMSP was the last organization as a member of Advocates for EMS. NAEMSP decided to close Advocates for EMS and create their own Advocacy Committee with Brent and Ritu as the Advocacy Committee Co-Chairs. They have contracted with Holland and Knight. Adrenal insufficiency was another major issue they needed to address with Congressional members who were proposing legislation they wanted to avoid.

**Joint National EMS Leadership Forum (JNEMSLF)** – Dia explained that the JNEMSLF began as 4 organizations and now is up to 19 EMS organizations and 5 federal partners. These national EMS organizations meet up to 4 times a year in conjunction with other national meetings to share information on their major issues

of the day. Dia reviewed the last meeting notes which are also posted on the NASEMSO website (under Projects / JNEMSLF).

**REPLICA Update** – Dia reported that REPLICA legislation has been filed in 5 states this year. It is moving quickly in Colorado. Dia believes it is possible/likely that we will have the 10 states needed by July of 2016. Donnie Woodyard said Louisiana’s efforts to pass the legislation were unsuccessful, but he is optimistic it will pass next time. Keith Wages said he is not optimistic that it could be introduced through the executive branch in Georgia but thinks it might move through the air ambulance organizations next year. Dean Cole said Nebraska held off because of a new governor but believes air EMS will push it. Dale Adkerson said Oklahoma is very interested but he was in the middle of other initiatives this year. Gary Brown said it passed the Virginia House but failed to pass the Senate due to one individual. It was fully supported by EMS constituents. Kyle is unsure if New Mexico could get it introduced via the executive branch but believes there is constituent support for it.

**EMS on the Hill Day [EMSontheHillDay](#)** – Kyle Thornton reminded everyone that NAEMT’s EMS on the Hill Day will be April 29<sup>th</sup>. Dia added that due to budget restraints, NASEMSO will not be sending any one this year.

**State Legislative Roundtable** – Due to the late hour, no one offered state legislative issues for discussion.

**Adjournment** - There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:15 PM EDT.

***Next Meeting: May 19***

*Meeting record was respectfully prepared by Program Manager Mary Hedges.*