



NASEMSO Government Information Committee

MEETING RECORD

Sept. 19, 2017
3:00 PM EDT

Attending – Paul Patrick (UT), Kyle Thornton (NM), Dale Adkerson (OK), Andy Gienapp (WY), Jason Rhodes (RI), Dr. Harry Sibold (MT), Dr. Ritu Sahni (NAEMSP), Juliet Altenburg (PA), Rich Wisnewski (SC), Mary Hedges (NASEMSO), Sue Prentiss (NASEMSO)

Call to Order / Call Roll / Approve Agenda – Paul Patrick, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:04 PM EDT.

Review and Approve Meeting Minutes (attached) – The July 17th meeting record was approved as submitted.

Action Item HR 3780, the Air Ambulance Quality and Accountability Act – Kathy Robinson reported that two air ambulance bills have been introduced, HR 3378, backed by the Association of Air Medical Services (AAMS), which is more provider-oriented and focused on reimbursement; the newer bill, HR 3780, is backed by the Association of Critical Care Transport (ACCT), which is more patient-oriented. Ritu said that NAEMSP has not taken a position on either bill at this point but will be looking at both. Andy added he believes further work needs to be done to determine which conditions require air transport. Paul asked if the committee wished to make a recommendation as to a NASEMSO position on HR 3780. NASEMSO has previously declined to take a position on HR 3378 (the AAMS backed bill). After discussion, it was determined that the Air Medical Committee should weigh in before a recommendation is made to the Board. Kathy also added the option of supporting certain parts of the bill. A bill summary and side-by-side comparison of the two bills are posted on the Committee's webpage at <https://www.nasemso.org/Projects/Legislative-Regulatory-Issues.asp>

Kathy also reported that North Dakota may have stumbled upon an answer to the balance billing problem with state legislation that does not violate the Airline Deregulation Act. The state enacted a law which requires hospitals to notify anyone who is begin considered for non-emergency air medical transport about options.

Opioid Commission Interim Report, sign-on letter (FYI only) (attached)- Mary referred members to the letter to Governor Christie, Chair of the President's Commission on Combating Drug Addiction and the Opioid Crisis, in which the signatories expressed support for the recommendations in the interim report and made suggestions for strengthening the report. The Executive Committee agreed to add NASEMSO as a signatory to the letter. The letter is available at <https://www.nasemso.org/Advocacy/Supported/index.asp>

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HR 304, Protecting Patient Access to Emergency Medications Act of 2017/ S 916 – Dr. Ritu Sahni said there is nothing new to report. They are feeling positive in general but it is a matter of waiting until it is placed on the Senate calendar. They hear no opposition to the bill from anyone. Dr. Harry Sibold agreed that all the ground work has been done removing any roadblocks. Ritu said they plan to work with the DEA in writing the rule once the enabling legislation has been enacted. *(For more information, see [NASEMSO GIC website](#))*

S 967, Medicare Ambulance Access, Fraud Prevention and Reform Act of 2017 – Paul Patrick said the bill would make the urban and rural Medicare add-ons and super-rural bonus payments permanent (they have been temporarily added in past years). It also would define ambulance services as providers rather than just suppliers of transportation. It now has 11 Co-sponsors. See <https://www.nasemso.org/Projects/Legislative-Regulatory-Issues.asp>

Strengthen EMS Act (SEMSA) Update – Mary Hedges reported that nothing is new on this bill that is the initiative of the NAEMT. The language has still not been drafted.

Society of Trauma Nurses - Juliet Altenburg (PA) said that STN is supporting the Mission Zero Act which proposes to integrate military injury surgical systems into civilian trauma centers nationwide and would provide grants to up to 20 trauma centers. See <https://www.nasemso.org/Projects/Legislative-Regulatory-Issues.asp>. The STN has also been developing resources for the Stop the Bleed Campaign.

Federal Funding Update re: EMSC – Mary Hedges reported that full funding for the EMSC program was approved in a 3-month Continuing Resolution (CR) for Federal FY 2018, which covers October, November and December. This is good news considering the President's budget had proposed elimination of EMSC funding. Paul Patrick noted that Utah's Senator Hatch has been a strong supporter of the EMSC program.

State Legislation Roundtable - All

- REPLICIA Update – Sue Prentiss reported that the first meeting and public hearing of the REPLICIA Commission will be next month in Oklahoma City. Doug Wolfberg will serve as interim chair to convene the meeting. Delaware recently became the 12th state to pass REPLICIA. They will be promoting REPLICIA next year in 15 additional states.
- Ban the Box (limiting use of felony checkbox) – Andy Gienapp said he does not have an update on the movement toward preventing the felony checkbox on job applications. Kyle Thornton reported that New Mexico passed ban the box legislation which prevents state employers from asking about felony convictions on job applications, but does not prohibit criminal background checks if offering a job and does not apply to licensing

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boards. Andy added that they are going a step further in Wyoming and drafting legislation which would limit denial of licensure based on felony history.

Adjourn – The meeting adjourned at 3:57 PM EDT.

Next Meeting – November 21, 2017

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