



## Government Information Committee

July 21, 2015

### MEETING RECORD

**Attending:** Dale Adkerson (OK), Gary Brown (VA), Joe Ferrell (IA), Andy Gienapp (WY), Tom Nehring (ND), Joe Schmider (TX), Ritu Sahni (NAEMSP), Rob Seesholtz, Keith Wages (GA), Mary Hedges (NASEMSO)

**Welcome and Roll Call** – Keith Wages called the meeting to order at 3:12 PM.

**Review and Approval of May 19th Meeting Record** – The May 19<sup>th</sup> meeting record was approved without changes.

**REPLICA Update** – Joe Schmider reported that Texas passed the REPLICA bill, noting that they received support from both Acadia Ambulance and AMR. Texas is the second state (Colorado was the first) to pass the EMS interstate compact bill. Ritu asked about fiscal impact, which he has heard raised as a concern in Oregon. Joe said it is minimal, and will eventually cost \$2000 per state but it is a couple years away. NASEMSO is creating a Q & A sheet to address some of the questions that have been raised. Joe added that the IAFF is opposed to the interstate compact bill (even though they were represented on the work group) but did not oppose it in Texas until the bill had already been signed by the Governor.

**DEA Issues / Collaboration with NAEMSP & ACEP** – Ritu Sahni updated the Committee on NAEMSP's legislative activity, noting that he has shared this information with Dr. Peter Taillac. He said that NAEMSP has contracted with Holland & Knight for lobbying services. One of the main issues they are focusing on is how EMS is impacted by rules and practices of the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA). NAEMSP believes that the DEA should license the EMS agency, rather than the medical director as they do now. NAEMSP has been following the progress of the rule on EMS that the DEA intended to promulgate. The DEA has decided not to promulgate the rule on EMS now, and presumably wait until there is a legislative fix in the Controlled Substances Act. Representative Hudson (NC) is willing to carry a bill to create an EMS "carve out" in the Controlled Substances Act. The intent is to ensure that paramedics are legally able to administer controlled substances by standing order.

IOM Report on Cardiac Arrest- NAEMSP has fashioned a response to the IOM report, which is supportive of NEMSIS and the CARES Registry. They have shared the response with NASEMSO but he will send a copy to this committee.

**Preventive Health & Health Services Block Grant Update** – On behalf of Kyle Thornton, Mary reported that the Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant was funded for 2015 with a 2% cut. The block grant has been targeted for elimination for several years in a row now, but always seems to pull through. Many state EMS offices receive partial funding through this block grant.

**Federal Legislation of Interest -**

Field EMS Bill (HR 2366) – Keith reported that NASEMSO has been discussing and will be taking a position on the Field EMS Bill in the near future. Dr. Sahni said that he realizes that the Field EMS Bill is controversial in some respects, but it is an avenue to get EMS at the table.

Rural Emergency Acute Care Hospital Act of 2015 (S.1648) - Tom Nehring said this recently introduced bill deals with reimbursement for acute care hospitals (CAHs) that have very low census. One concern about the bill is the possible impact on state trauma systems and rural ambulance services. Rob Seesholtz said he is concerned about how it could undercut state trauma system development. Tom said that the bill will be discussed at the next JCREC meeting and they should know more about it at that time. It can be accessed on the NASEMSO website [here](#).

HR 2795 requires the Department of Homeland Security to study availability of first Responders during a terrorist event. Mary reported that Dia Gainor had been contacted by a legislative staffer seeking NASEMSO input. The bill is available at [HR 2795](#). Joe Schmider expressed concern about the negative wording of the bill.

**NRHA Advocacy Document re-visit** - Jim DeTienne was not on the call to report. This item was deferred to a later meeting.

**State Legislative Roundtable** – Keith asked people to comment on legislation of interest in their states. Tom Nehring said a bill was introduced in North Dakota dealing with EMS reimbursement, but was amended so that it focused on air ambulance. The State Health Department is now being sued by an air ambulance company. He will report to the Air Medical Committee on the matter.

**Adjournment** – The meeting adjourned at 3:48 PM.

**Next Meeting: Sept 15/Oct 13(Fall Meeting)**

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