



**Highway Incident and Transportation Systems (HITS)
Committee Meeting - NASEMSO Annual Meeting**
Charleston, South Carolina
June 22, 2022

Meeting Record

Attending – David Newton (GA), Josh Walters (biospatial), Gary Brown (VA), Amy Eisenhauer (NY), Jim Green (Intrepid Solutions), Nicolena Mitchell (CO EMSC), Johnny Wagner (MI), Shari Graham (MT), Rick Patrick (USFA), Sabrina Kerr (MI), Dr. Carol Cunningham (OH), Mindy Carter (VA), Max Severeid (NHTSA), Clary Mole (NHTSA), David Bryson (NHTSA), Tim Seplaki (NJ), Ted Delbridge (MD), J. Sam Hurley (ME), Marc Minkler (ME), Cassie Longhart (GA), Dr. Doug Kupas (PA), Jason Rhodes (RI), Anna Masefski (MA), Dana Selover (OR), Joe Schmider (TX), Tommy Smith (FirstNet built by AT&T), Lauri Bradt Lunde (NEMSIS), Gene Wiseman (AK), Jonathan Olson (First Net Authority), Christine Graff (ND), Mike Hall (FL), Molly Terebieniec (LA), Rob Wagoner (OH), Julianne Ehlers (NEMSIS), Eric Chaney (NHTSA), Dr. Tim Chizmar (MD), David Edwards (VA), Stacy Connolly (ID EMSC), Melissa Ball (ID)

Welcome and Call to Order– David Newton, Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:02 PM EDT.

Review & Approval of April 14, 2021 Meeting Record – David Newton referred members to the link to the April 2021 meeting record for review.

Traffic Incident Management and the National Roadway Safety Strategy - Gam Wijetunge, NHTSA Office of EMS, reviewed the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law recently passed by Congress. Additional funds were allocated to USDOT for highway safety over the next five years (2022-2027) and allows unspent funds to be carried forward from year to year. The Highway Safety Data grants were increased by 50% and include emergency medical services data. For the first time, NEMSIS was specified in an authorization law. NHTSA has initiated a rulemaking process to implement changes to the Highway Safety Grant Program and is currently accepting comments. The Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) program has issued a notice of funding opportunity for local, regional and tribal governments.

Gam also discussed the national public health crisis we are facing with the significant increase in highway fatalities in 2020. Secretary Buttigieg committed to taking action to reduce this rate. Action includes attention to post crash care. Key actions are to develop an outreach plan for EMS personnel for on-scene safety and traffic incident training.

FirstNet Authority - Paul Patrick, FirstNet Authority Board member and retired Utah state EMS director, introduced John Olson from FirstNet, Tommy Smith, First Net AT&T, and Mieko Doi, FirstNet AT&T Marketing. Tommy Smith is a retired fire chief and his role is to engage with first responders and educate them about the advantages of FirstNet.

A Study of Ambulance Crashes in Massachusetts – Anna Masefski, MPH, EMT, served as an intern with the Massachusetts Office of EMS while completing her master’s thesis on ambulance crashes in the state. She did a retrospective analysis of 128 ambulance crashes and completed a literature review. Most of the crashes occurred during patient transport. If the crash occurred while running with lights and sirens, it was more likely that a patient was on board. Drivers with less than 2 years of EMS experience were more likely to crash. A greater rate of crashes occur at rush hour (4 to 5 PM). The study also revealed that EMS agencies were not reporting crashes to the office of EMS as required. She estimated they were missing about 75% of ambulance crashes. They are required to submit copies of the crash report, police report and significant injury report to the Office of EMS. The post-crash survey she used in her study is available at <https://forms.gle/zQBuxT1f2J9WJnRt7> Her presentation is available at <https://nasemsso.org/wp-content/uploads/Ambulance-Crashes-in-Massachusetts-Anna-Masefski.pdf>

Project and Committee Updates

Joint ACS/NAEMSO Paper on Universally Unique Identifier – Dia Gainor explained that while the UUID paper addresses linkage between NEMSIS and trauma registries, the same methodology can be used to link law enforcement crash reports and patient care records. The NCHRP will be funding a large project to update the UUID linkage methodology paper published several years ago specific to this. See <https://nasemsso.org/wp-content/uploads/ACS-NAEMSO-Joint-Linkage-Policy-Statement-FINAL-Version.pdf>

New NEMSIS Liaison Position and Implications for HITS – Dia announced that NAEMSO has been funded by the University of Utah (NEMSIS) to hire a full-time person to be the NEMSIS Liaison.

Transportation Safety Advancement Group (TSAG) – Dia explained the purpose of TSAG, of which she has long been a member, was to examine emerging technology and how it might be applied to public safety. The group has now been retired.

Road to Zero Coalition – Dia reported this coalition is now at 2000 members. They have an annual grant program intended to launch small innovative projects promoting crash reduction.

TIM Executive Leaders Group – Dia noted the Traffic Incident Management (TIM) program, administered by FHWA, is now 10 years old. She represents NAEMSO and EMS on the TIM Executive Leaders Group. They promote training for first responders to safely respond to traffic incidents. The Executive Leadership Group plans the annual Crash Responder Safety Week.

Adjourn – The meeting adjourned at 3:20 PM EDT. Next meeting is **August 10** at 3:00 PM EDT.

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