



HITS Committee Meeting

February 11, 2015

Meeting Record

Attending: Donnie Woodyard, Chair, Dia Gainor (NASEMSO), Mary Hedges (NASEMSO), Patrick Son (ITSA), Sue Morris (OH), Susan McHenry (NHTSA OEMS), Andrew Fulton (DE), John Cramer (ID), Julie Rabeau (AK), Scott Winston (VA), Carol Cunningham (OH), Frank Cheatham (VA), Billie Collier (MS)

Welcome and Roll Call – Donnie Woodyard, Chair, called the meeting to order. He introduced himself as the state director from the Louisiana Bureau of EMS. He was pleased to be asked to chair the committee when former Chair Keith Wages was elected as NASEMSO Chair-Elect.

Review & Approval of October 7th Meeting Record – Donnie asked for review and comment on the meeting record for October 7, 2014. The meeting record was approved without changes.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION:

Emergency Vehicle Distracted Driver - Patrick Son, Intelligent Transportation Society of America, explained he works closely with Dia Gainor, who chairs the **Transportation Safety Advancement Group**. TSAG is a multi-disciplinary group whose focus is to promote best practices in technology for public safety. The focus of the white paper he is presenting is to examine onboard technology and the distraction it creates for drivers of emergency vehicles. Inattention is a major factor in ambulance crashes, according to statistics. The Mobile Data Terminal (MDT) is a frequently used technology in emergency vehicles, and it creates a high workload. Radios induce a similar workload as cell phone conversations. Touchpads are preferred but they require more visual attention. It can be particularly problematic when the 2nd medic is in the patient compartment and the driver is alone in the cab and must interact with GPS or other technology. More research, as well as policies, are needed to minimize the distractions from onboard technology in emergency vehicles.

Following the presentation, Donnie Woodyard inquired if there are any states considering ways to address this issue. Sue Morris said Ohio is beginning to look at this problem. Andrew Fulton (DE) inquired about voice interfaces as used in the military. Patrick Son said he does not have information about the military interface but in general voice interfaces are not designed for emergency use and have not been very effective in this setting. Mike Berg noted that this topic has been discussed in the AVL Committee. It is not an ambulance manufacturer issue because these are after market devices.

[Request for Comments - Collecting Information on Ambulance Driver Training Requirements](#) - NHTSA is proposing to survey all state EMS offices and over 21,000 local ambulance services to determine “the current state of ambulance driver training which will help the Agency determine if additional research and development on the topic are warranted.” Comments are due by March 23rd, 2015. Donnie asked for input today, noting that NASEMSO will summarize comments and submit to NHTSA. He encouraged individuals to read the Notice.

HITS Committee Workplan 2015 – Donnie Woodyard encouraged members to view the HITS Committee

Workplan which is posted on the newly updated HITS website. Mary briefly reviewed the new strategic plan. She pointed out that NASEMSO adopted a much shorter workplan format for 2015. All the tasks for the HITS Committee can be seen on a single page.

Federal Partner Update – Susan McHenry, NHTSA Office of EMS, thanked Donnie for taking over chairmanship of the HITS Committee, and said she looks forward to working with him. NHTSA appreciates all the work from NASEMSO on the new Performance Measures Project. Several states are transitioning to NEMSIS Version 3.

Collaboration between State Highway Safety Officials and State EMS Officials

- State Highway Safety Plans (by State and Year) [Highway Safety Plans](#) – Donnie pointed out the link to each state’s highway safety plan is now on the HITS website, noting it is an important resource for learning what each state is doing and how EMS is addressed in the State Highway Safety Plan.
- Examples of State Highway Officials and State EMS Officials collaboration – Donnie reported that he is pleased that Louisiana will be kicking off a project to link EMS data with crash data, which was made possible through collaboration with his state’s Traffic Records Coordinating Committee.

Project and Committee Updates

- Traffic Incident Management (TIM) Update – Dia Gainor reported that the goal is to train 1,000,000 emergency responders (police, fire, EMS, tow truck drivers) in Traffic Incident Management by the end of the year. At present, some 750,000 personnel have been trained from around the nation, but unfortunately only 4.3% of those trained are from EMS. Mary thanked HITS members for nominating EMS personnel for the TIM Train the Trainer Course at the National Fire Academy at the end of February. NASEMSO was able to submit 20 candidates for this class in Emmitsburg, Maryland.
- Ambulance Standards Update – Michael Berg, Chair of the AVL Committee, reported that comments on NFPA 1917 (version 2) are being reviewed presently. The final ballot will occur later this year with a plan to have Version 2 published by January 2016. Comments on the CAAS standards are also being reviewed now, with a goal to have these new ambulance standards published in October 2015. The General Services Administration (GSA) will add 3 new standards to the KKK Standards (seating, cot retention and equipment mounts) to be effective July 1, 2015.
- Transportation Safety Advancement Group (TSAG) – Dia Gainor had nothing further to report from TSAG.
- NFPA Alternative Fuel Safety Training – Frank Cheatham reported this committee is an offshoot of the electrical vehicle fire committee with which he was involved. He continually advocates for EMS as the group is heavily fire-centric
- Advanced Automatic Collision Notification Project – Mary Hedges reported that the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) was awarded the new AACN project funded by NHTSA Office of EMS. It is intended to effectively integrate the crash data collected by automobiles with this feature into the PSAPs for the purpose of improving the predictability of severity of injury. Agero and GM (OnStar) are the two companies that produce telematics for the AACN option for vehicles. The purpose of the project is to develop training for use of the data, particularly training for the EMS and 911 medical directors.

Other Business / Member Questions / Comments

- Updated HITS Website (Click here [HITS](#)) – Mary Hedges reminded members that the HITS webpage, which is part of the NASEMSO website, has recently been updated. Donnie encouraged members to spend time reviewing the site.
- Other – Frank Cheatham said he is heavily involved in TIM in Virginia, and they have a challenge convincing EMS providers to attend the training. It seems that some EMS providers want the training to come to their shop, while some do not feel it is necessary since they spend so little time at the scene of a highway crash. Donnie said in Louisiana they have the same difficulty getting EMS providers to attend.
- Next Meeting - April 8 will be the next meeting of the Committee, using the same GoToMeeting number. The meeting adjourned at 4:15 PM EST.

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