



National Association of State EMS Officials Highway Incidents & Transportation Systems (HITS) Committee Meeting Record

October 7, 2014

Cleveland Public Auditorium, Cleveland, Ohio

Attending: Keith Wages (Chair), Dale Adkerson (OK), Jeanne-Marie Bakehouse (CO), Michael Berg (VA), Jay Bradshaw (ME), Gary Brown (VA), Bruce Cheeseman (ID), Guy Danske (UT), Jim DeTienne (MT), Christopher Drucker (TX), Jack Fleeharty (IL), Andy Fulton (DE), Dia Gainor (NASEMSO), Michael Garvey (IN), Candace Hamilton (OR), Mary Hedges (NASEMSO), Marvin Helmker (MI), Joe House (KS), Nancy Kelly-Goodstein (NJ), Mike Leyden (VT), Steve McCoy (FL), Mark Miller (AK), Sue Morris (OH), Terry Mullins (AZ), Marilyn Rutz (SD), Tim Seplaki (NJ), Marschall Smith (CO), Kyle Thornton (NM), Scott Winston (VA), Donnie Woodyard (LA)

Guests: David Boyd (NAAMTA), Catherine Bishop (OnStar), Dave Bradley (VFIS), Jim Green (NIOSH), Ken Holland (NFPA), Mirinda Gormley (NHTSA), Jackie Kennedy (DHS), Clay Mann (NEMSIS), Susan McHenry (NHTSA), Dr. Maxwell Osei-Ampolo (EMS Fellow), Theresa Morrison-Quinata (HRSA-EMSC)

Call to Order /Welcome / Introductions – Keith Wages, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:20, welcoming members and guests.

Review/Approval of August 13 Meeting Minutes – The August meeting minutes were approved.

“Effective Collaboration with Highway Safety Partners” Panel– Keith Wages, Moderator

Jay Bradshaw (ME), Nancy Kelly-Goodstein (NJ), Tim Seplaki (NJ), Steve McCoy (FL), Sue Morris (OH)

A Panel of State Directors and Data Managers shared experiences and benefits from collaborating with highway safety officials in their respective states. Jay Bradshaw stated that the Maine EMS office is in the same agency and building as the Office of Traffic Safety, which has contributed to a strong relationship. Steve McCoy stated that funds through Florida’s Traffic Records Coordinating Committee (TRCC) have funded nearly 100% of the state’s EMS data collection system. He explained that collaborative efforts with state transportation coalitions and strong EMS leadership on the TRCC have resulted in success for all parties involved. Sue Morris has been a member of the Ohio Traffic Records Coordinating Committee for several years. She has established relationships with her highway safety counterparts, which has resulted in extensive funding for their data collection efforts, as well as other cooperative efforts. Nancy Kelly-Goodstein and Tim Seplaki shared their experience in New Jersey where they have received funding for data collection. Tim explained they partnered with Highway Traffic Safety, New Jersey State Police, NJ Division of Transportation and NJ Office of Information Technology to develop a universal statewide data repository. Panel members shared experiences with the NHTSA Assessments of the TRCC. The Traffic Records Assessments are required every five years and focus heavily on EMS, which is beneficial to the state EMS office.

Keith emphasized how important it is for state EMS officials to become involved in their state’s Strategic Highway Safety Planning (SHSP) process. He also encouraged everyone to visit the EMS Connection website which is designed for state EMS officials and state highway officials to better understand each other. See <http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/hsip/shsp/ems/connection/>

Federal Update - Susan McHenry (NHTSA Office of EMS) emphasized how important it is to build relationships with highway safety counterparts, which are not built overnight but will yield results in the long term. There will be an increased focus on “serious injury” in coming years and highway safety officials need EMS involvement if they want to obtain this information.

Project and Committee Updates:

- Minimum Model Uniform Crash Criteria (MMUCC, 4th Edition) – Dia Gainor explained how important it is for states to adopt the 4th edition of MMUC, which finally contains criteria sought by EMS.
- Ambulance Standards (CAAS, NFPA 1917) – Michael Berg (VA) reported that the CAAS GVS2015 document has been released for comment. The intended adoption date is in spring of 2015 with an effective date of October 1, 2015. NFPA 1917 standards, version 1, have been out and version 2 is underway and expected to be completed in January 2016. ASTM also has ambulance standards (ASTM 2020) that closely mirror the GSA KKK specifications and which they are planning to update in the upcoming year. ASTM has scheduled a meeting for February 25, 2015 (to coincide with EMS Today, Baltimore) but has not yet specified the agenda.
- Traffic Incident Management (TIM) – Dia Gainor explained the federal effort underway to train those responding to the scene of a traffic incident. Only 4% trained in the TIM course are from EMS, so we have work to do to promote this training to EMS.
- NCHRP 1757, Data Linkage – Clay Mann, PhD, reported on the research project which is intended to enhance linkage of EMS data to hospital discharge records.
- Transporting Children Safely in Ground Ambulances – Katrina Altenhofen (IA) explained the PEC Council's concern with this document. Although it is a great first step, there are limitations. She has been working with Jim Green, NIOSH, in an effort to find solutions.
- Toward Zero Deaths National Strategy Resolution – Keith Wages said there is a resolution in support of Toward Zero Deaths National Strategy that will be offered at the business meeting for adoption.

NHTSA and Ground Ambulance Crashes Presentation – Mirinda Gormley, Public Health Fellow at the NHTSA Office of EMS, presented an overview of the ground ambulance crash data she has been researching and compiling. Based on 20 year data from 1992 and 2011, there is an estimated annual average of 29 fatal ambulance crashes and an estimated annual average of 33 fatalities. Of the average 29 fatal crashes, 58% were while the ambulance was operating in emergency status. NHTSA Office of Special Crash Investigations (SCI) began investigation ambulance crashes in 2001, and has investigated 41 ambulance crashes in that time. Mirinda has gathered a great deal of information from these investigations and will be releasing a report early in 2015. She added that the Minimum Model Uniform Crash Criteria (MMUCC) made an important change in its latest revision to include critical information that will help in obtaining ambulance crash data. Also, the *Annual NHTSA Traffic Safety Facts* contains data on emergency vehicle crashes (which includes police, fire and ambulance vehicles). Miranda was encouraged to report again at the NASEMSO Mid Year Meeting once she has completed her report in 2015.

Model Inventory of Emergency Care Elements (MIECE) ACTION PLAN – Mary Hedges distributed copies of the MIECE Action Plan which describes how NASEMSO may want to proceed if considering further development of MIECE. The end result would be a tool that could define roadways by the level of emergency care services available. Mary requested that members provide feedback to her and Keith, via email or during the Annual Meeting, on whether the committee should pursue funding for development of such a tool.

Adjourn – Keith thanked all for attending and encouraged attendees to contact him or Mary Hedges if interested in receiving future notices of HITS Committee meetings. The meeting adjourned at 5:00 PM.

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