



HITS Committee Meeting

August 9, 2017

3:00 PM EDT

Meeting Record

Attending – Steve McCoy, Chair (FL), Dale Adkerson (OK), Jim DeTienne (MT), Carol Jorgensen (NE), David Harden (AZ), Susan McHenry (NHTSA), Joe Ferrell (NASEMSO), Mary Hedges (NASEMSO), Kathy Robinson (NASEMSO), Cyndy Wright–Johnson (MD), Dr. Carol Cunningham (OH), Michael Berg (VA)

Welcome and Roll Call – Steve McCoy, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:01 PM EDT.

Review & Approval of June 14th Meeting Record – Steve reviewed highlights of the June 14th meeting record. It was approved without changes.

Fatigue in EMS Project – Kathy Robinson provided a brief overview of the project (See [Fatigue-in-EMS](#)). The evidence-based guidelines have been submitted and are presently undergoing peer review. The findings and recommendations will be available online in scientific journals and free for one year. There were 7 PICO questions examined relating to fatigue and its impact on emergency medical services. Other industries are interested in the findings. Some 40,000 journal articles were reviewed as a part of the project. A recommendation regarding shift length will be made. Access to caffeine was heavily discussed and is being recommended, as well as allowing naps, breaks, and rest periods during shift schedules. This recommendation is controversial among some EMS agency managers who have a negative reaction to personnel sleeping while on duty. An article is expected to be published in September in Prehospital Emergency Care. Kathy commented there have been 3 ambulance crashes in Maine in the last 30 days caused by the driver falling asleep.

CAPCE Letter Requesting CE for TIM Training– Steve reviewed the draft letter to CAPCE requesting approval of the TIM Training for continuing education credit; it was recommended for approval to the Board. Dave Harden inquired about CAPCE approval of the TIM train-the-trainer course, which is much longer than the 4-hour TIM course. It was suggested that this be considered after a response is received from the initial request.

NHTSA Update – Susan McHenry noted that the upcoming NEMSAC meeting, August 14-15, is the last meeting of the current NEMSAC membership. There will be three reports at the meeting, including Daniel Patterson reporting on the Fatigue in EMS project; Doug Kupas presenting his report on lights and siren; and the FDA reporting on medication shortages. She added that Dr. Krohmer is working on getting approval to hire replacements for Hector and Noah Smith, positions which were recently vacated. In addition, Susan added that she will be retiring at the end of the year.

Project and Committee Updates

- a. TIM Executive Leaders Group – Dia was not available to report. Dave Harden had no recent information to share.
- b. Road to Zero- Dia Gainor was not available to report.

- c. Safe Transport of Children Committee - Mary Hedges reported that the STC Committee continues to pursue funding to conduct research to determine safety standards for restraint devices for children being transported by EMS. She added the committee recently completed a document that compares the various child restraint products available to EMS. This is meant to be a resource and not an endorsement of any product.
- d. AVL Committee / Ambulance Standards Update – Michael Berg reported that the AVL continues its work on two projects: model ambulance rules and the ambulance inspection process. Regarding ambulance standards, he attended a summit on ambulance remounts. The NHTSA representative, Coleman Sachs, announced that remounted vehicles must meet the same standards required of new ambulances. This caused great concern among the industry. In addition, John McDonald, GSA, announced that ambulance stickers are no longer valid when a patient compartment is remounted on a new chassis. The primary manufacturers do not have an issue with the interpretations; the secondary industry which does all the remount business is concerned as they assumed that the standards did not apply to them.
- e. National Collaborative for Bio Preparedness (NCBP) Update – Joe Ferrell explained the project was originally funded by DHS to develop a bio-surveillance project. They approached NASEMSO about a year ago to become involved. The project realized the overlap with highway safety crash data, as well as opioid overdose data. So far, two states have signed an agreement to participate (FL and RI). Steve said that Florida is working to link the crash data with EMS data. He noted that version 5 of the Model Minimum Uniform Crash Criteria (MMUCC) was just released.

Opioid Crisis & Highway Safety Impacts: State EMS Offices & NASEMSO Response/Results – David Harden (AZ) suggested the committee examine ways to use the opioid data to overlap with EMS data. The Governor of Arizona issued an executive order mandating public safety officials/EMS to report suspected opioid overdose. He will share the link to their webpage that contains the data. Steve commented that there is likely a way to connect opioid use to highway safety issues.

Collaboration between State Highway Safety Officials and State EMS Officials – No examples of collaboration were offered by members on the call.

Next Meeting – The HITS Committee will meet the morning of October 11 at the Fall Meeting in Oklahoma City. Steve encouraged members to attend the Fall Meeting. Dale Adkerson described the special event being organized which includes a tour of the Oklahoma City National Museum and Memorial, presentation by some who responded to the 1995 bombing of the federal building, and dinner.

Adjourn – The meeting adjourned at 3:51 PM EDT.

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