



HITS Committee Meeting

April 10, 2013

Meeting Record

Attendance

Keith Wages, Chair (GA)
Mary Hedges (NASEMSO)
Frank Cheatham (VA)
Robert Cooney (PA)

Richard Cooper (NH)
John Cramer (ID)
Tricia Duva (RedFlash)
Sue Morris (OH)

Laurie Reiss (RedFlash)
Scott Winston (VA)

I. **Welcome and Roll Call** –Keith Wages called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

II. **Guest Presentation:** State Highway Safety Plan /EMS Toolkit

Keith welcomed Tricia Duva, from the Red Flash Group. Tricia explained the Red Flash Group has been contracted by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to work on a project to promote EMS involvement in the strategic highway safety planning program (SHSP). She is working on the project with Keith Griffith, who was unable to participate in the call today. EMS is the least involved of the “4 Es” of highway safety. Tricia introduced her colleague, Laurie Reiss, who worked on an earlier project that involved several state EMS directors. Laurie said they did some early work in 2011 which included interviewing several state EMS directors, as well as conducting a meeting of state EMS directors and highway safety officials. As a result of that effort, they presented a recommendation and communication plan to FHWA. FHWA reviewed the plan and prioritized, and the current project is a result. The year-long contract began February 1, 2013. They will be creating an online toolkit, which will include bite-size, easy to use tips that are intended for both EMS and state highway officials. There will be primers, communication tips, and other tools for both EMS and highway safety officials. There will be a small description of grants available to state EMS offices, as well as examples of EMS projects funded by the highway safety office. Laurie commented that she noticed on the HITS website that we are working on developing talking points for EMS to use with highway safety officials. Mary said that was a goal but we did not have the funding to pursue it; we would be happy to work with them on developing those. Tricia asked members if they had suggestions for the project. Chip Cooper, NH Data Manager, said his state is fairly involved with highway safety colleagues, but some data managers from other states are hardly aware of their TRCCs. Robert Cooney agreed that Pennsylvania is also very involved with highway safety colleagues, even though that is not the case in every state.

Upon inquiry from Tricia and Laurie about the structure of state EMS offices, Keith Wages and Mary Hedges provided background information. Most (probably 80%) are located in state health departments, while most of the remainder are in state public safety departments, and three are independent boards (MD, KS and MN). Keith said that state EMS office interaction with their highway safety colleagues should not be affected by where they are located in state government, except that those in public safety may have more interaction if in the same department.

III. Review and Comment: Improving Communication between Hearing Impaired and Ambulances Research Proposal. Mary apologized for the length of the document but said this was an example of the type of funding that is available for highway-safety related research projects. She was somewhat surprised to see this research proposal, but please that it is related to EMS. Keith asked if anyone had comments. While no comments were offered, he asked individuals to send any comment by email to Mary. Mary said she wondered if the researchers were aware that most ambulance transports do not involve the use of a siren, and that we discourage this type of ambulance response unless the condition warrants it. Keith asked Mary to relay that information as a comment on the proposal on behalf of the HITS Committee.

IV. Project and Committee Updates

- A. Model Rules for Ambulance Vehicle Design Project – Dennis was unable to participate in the call as he is traveling in rural Alabama and did not have cell phone coverage. Keith, who serves as Dennis’s alternate on the project, said he is optimistic that there will be more information after the June meeting of the AVL committee. They have been working with the NFPA regarding some the proposed ambulance standards.
- B. NFPA Emergency Responder Advisory Panel - Frank Cheatham represents NASEMSO on this advisory panel which is focused on emergency response to electric vehicle fires. Frank said he had been hoping to get to the test burns, but was unable.
- C. NTIMC: National Traffic Incident Management Coalition - Scott Winston said the Coalition has not met since the last HITS Committee meeting, but they have a meeting scheduled for May 1 at DOT headquarters in Washington, DC. They will be looking at recommendations that came from a national summit last year to look at a new TIM organizational structure. It was disappointing that EMS was not included in the steering group, even though fire and law enforcement were.
- D. NCHRP 20-24(37) K, Measuring Performance among State DOTs: Sharing Good Practices -- Serious Crash Injury – Dia was not on the call to report.
- E. NCHRP 20-05, Models for Effective Emergency Medical Services Response to Motor Vehicle Crashes in Rural Areas (Dean Cole, Jim DeTienne, Dia Gainor). There was no report.
- F. NCHRP 20-07, Developing a Framework for Emergency Responder/Roadside Worker Struck-by/Near-miss Database - Mary Hedges said she had nothing new to report since the last HITS meeting. The project has developed a draft framework outlining a reporting system for near misses, hits and fatalities at roadway incidents, but she has not seen the final report.

V. Other Business / Member Questions / Comments

Bob Cooney said the Governor in Pennsylvania kicked off the Yellow Dot Program the first of the year. It involves a yellow folder in the glove box which contains the occupants’ medical history. There is a yellow dot that is affixed to the car window, so that EMS knows where to look in the case of a crash. It has been popular to date and is very low cost.

Sue Morris said that the Ohio EMS Office had a great response to the Traffic Incident Management (TIM) Train the Trainer course, and she is still getting calls from EMS people who are interested in taking the course if it is offered again in Ohio.

Bob Cooney said that Pennsylvania is again involved with the National EMS Memorial Bike Ride. Joe Schmider and others will be bicycling from Maine to Virginia again. They have also recruited Bill Brown from the NREMT to participate.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:44 PM EST. The next meeting will be June 12.

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