



HITS Committee Meeting

August 13, 2014

3:00 PM EDT

Meeting Record

Attending:

Keith Wages, Chair
Katrina Altenhofen (IA)
Michael Berg (VA)

Mary Hedges (NAEMSO)
Susan McHenry (NHTSA)
Julie Rabeau (AK)

Scott Winston (VA)

Welcome and Roll Call – R. Keith Wages, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:04 PM EDT.

Review & Approval of June 11 Meeting Record (attached) – The June 11 meeting record was approved without changes.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION: CAAS Ambulance Standards – Michael Berg thanked the Committee for inviting him to present the CAAS Standards. About 30 or more states have utilized some part of the Federal GSA's KKK ambulance purchase specifications for their state ambulance standards. When the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) decided to develop ambulance vehicle standards in recent years, known as the NFPA 1917 Ambulance Vehicle Standards, there was concern among many in EMS, particularly due to the lack of EMS representation on the NFPA 1917 Technical Committee. This eventually led to the decision by the Commission on Accreditation of Ambulance Services (CAAS) to develop ambulance vehicle standards with greater input and involvement of EMS providers and officials. He added that other entities have ambulance standards, including the ASTM, whose ambulance standards are very similar to the KKK specifications. The CAAS initiative was fast-tracked so that the work could be completed prior to the retirement of the KKK specifications in October of 2015. Michael Berg and Dia Gainor have represented NAEMSO on the CAAS work group developing these standards. The CAAS intent is to publish the standards in April 2015, which are to be effective on October 1, 2015. Michael added that the NFPA 1917 has already begun the next revision cycle of its ambulance standards, and he has now been selected to be on the NFPA 1917 Technical Committee, representing enforcement agencies. Berg added that there is much more research being done in ambulance safety, and cited the work of Jim Green (NIOSH/CDC) and Jennifer Marshall (NIST/DHS) both who have contributed evidence in this field. For example, the NFPA 1917 and the CAAS standard includes a new cot retention standard, known as SAE J-3027, which only two manufacturers (Ferno and Stryker) currently produce, and costs in the neighborhood of \$18,000 to \$40,000. The NIOSH research provides data from the automotive industry showing that patients stay on the cot in a 30 MPH impact with the new standard. Cabinetry and ergonomics are two areas that were studied by NIOSH and will likely be included in version 2 of NFPA 1917. Only the New Mexico's State Fire Marshall's Office has adopted the NFPA 1917 standard to date. Mike will be presenting a comparison of the NFPA 1917 standards and the proposed CAAS standards at the NAEMSO Annual Meeting in Cleveland in October.

Model Inventory of Emergency Care Elements (MIECE) Action Plan (attached) – Mary Hedges referred to the MIECE Action Plan that was distributed with the meeting materials. MIECE is a concept that if fully developed would quantify and rate EMS resources along stretches of roadway, showing the safest

roads to travel in relation to EMS resources in the event of a highway crash. She asked for member feedback on whether MIECE should be further explored by NASEMSO. Susan asked about the status of the Alabama DOT efforts, where the further development of MIECE had been discussed. Katrina Altenhofen asked if there was any concern from states that don't want this data known, especially if the EMS system leaves much to be desired. Julie Rabeau inquired how trauma centers would be defined and who would fund this project. Mary said this is yet to be determined but we would likely seek funding from USDOT (other than NHTSA), and experts on the work group would determine how to define and measure access to trauma centers. Susan explained the Mexican Hat motor coach crash led to many of these questions.

Federal Partner Update – Susan McHenry, NHTSA Office of EMS, reported that Congress recently acted to extend the Highway Trust Fund through May 2015. Unfortunately, this is not long term, but will at least extend the funding for the next few months. NHTSA OEMS has helped to fund the latest evidence-based guidelines (EBGs), which were published in January and April, and are focused on trauma (hemorrhage control). She referred participants to the ground ambulance crash slideshow on the NHTSA OEMS website.

Project and Committee Updates

- A. Traffic Incident Management (TIM) Update – Mary Hedges reported that EMS still represents only 3.8% of those trained at the TIM training sessions taking place around the nations. Keith said that it is up to those of us in EMS to get the word out to EMS providers about the training.
- B. SHSP and EMS Collaboration – Keith referred members to the website recently created which promotes collaboration between state EMS officials and state highway safety colleagues. The website is can be accessed at the following link:
<http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/hsip/shsp/ems/connection/>

Effective Collaboration with Highway Safety Partners (Annual Meeting Planning) – Mary said this topic will be the subject of a special presentation at the HITS Committee Meeting in Cleveland in October, and is included in the HITS Strategic Plan. Keith Wages has offered to serve as one member of a panel comprised of state EMS officials who will share their strategies for collaboration. Mary asked for volunteers and other suggestions. Julie Rabeau asked for information to be distributed to members which explains the request and the need for participation. She also asked if there were resources available which explain the importance form state EMS officials to attend the Annual Meeting. Mary referred her to the website and offered to provide additional justification.

Other Business / Member Questions / Comments - Keith mentioned that Dia is currently participating in the Council of State Governments Conference in Anchorage, Alaska, speaking on REPLICA (Recognition of EMS Personnel Licensure Interstate Compact). He added that this project has positive implications for EMS personnel responding to mass casualties incidents across state lines, such as the Mexican Hat motor coach crash.

Keith thanked Michael Berg for speaking to the committee and all those who joined the call. The meeting adjourned at 4:05 PM EDT.

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