



HITS Committee Meeting

June 14, 2017

3:00 PM EDT

Meeting Record

Attending - Steve McCoy (FL) Chair, Jim Green (NIOSH), Mary Hedges (NASEMSO), Tim Wilson (NB), Michael Berg (VA), Jolene Whitney (UT), John Cramer (ID)

Welcome and Roll Call – Steve McCoy, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:05 PM EDT.

Review & Approval of April 12th Meeting Record – Steve McCoy reviewed the highlights of the meeting record. It was noted that NEMSAC is now accepting applications. The meeting record was approved as submitted.

Improving EMS Worker Safety Through Ambulance Design and Testing – Jim Green provided an overview of the 7-part video series recently released and co-funded by NIOSH and DHS. The videos are available on the NIOSH YouTube site. They are also mailing 200 DVDs of the video series. The first video discusses the EMS injury and fatality data that NHTSA has amassed, as well as the new standards for EMS. The second video discusses the ambulance crash testing done and how it plays into designing an ambulance. The third video focuses on seating and restraint types. The fourth video focuses on the patient cot and the testing done to protect the worker and the patient. The fifth video talks about the danger of flying gear and equipment. The sixth video covers the structural strength of the patient compartment. Video 7 combines all the pieces with a discussion about the NIST-developed Human Factors Guidebook. The videos have also been posted on the SafeAmbulances.org website. Michael Berg noted the videos are also posted on the Virginia Office of EMS website. Jolene Whitney asked if the pediatric aspect is addressed in the restraint video. Jim responded it is not, but that is a major goal of the Safe Transport of Children Committee.

Florida's Partnership with the NCBP, Linking Data, and more – Steve McCoy reported that his state has entered a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the National Collaborative for Bio Preparedness (NCBP) to link highway crash data. There is no fee because the NCBP can sell the data to researchers. The state still has oversight in how their data is used. Steve explained that the next step is to answer the question, "Now what?" Jolene responded that while their data is linked through CODES, they have not really used the data within their own office. Steve asked if anyone is using this to make any operational decisions with their DOT office? Tim Wilson agreed that they are at the stage of people getting comfortable with linking of the data and determine how it may be able to benefit distribution of resources in rural areas of Nebraska.

TIM Endorsement Letter – Mary Hedges shared a draft letter to Mark Kehrli, the Director of the Emergency Transportation Operations at FWH, endorsing the TIM training program. The letter from NASEMSO shares what NASEMSO has done to support TIM and commits to further support. The committee approved the letter to be submitted to the NASEMSO Board of Directors.

Project and Committee Updates

Road to Zero - Dia Gainor was not able to join the call to report.

Safe Transport of Children Committee - Mary Hedges reported that the STC Committee continues to meet monthly and is focusing on trying to obtain funding for a crash testing research project. There are currently no standards in the United states for products being sold for securely transporting children via ambulance. Until such research can get underway, the committee is focused on educating providers about the importance of restraining children with products currently on the market.

AVL Committee / Ambulance Standards Update – Michael Berg said the AVL Committee is continuing its work on the development of model rules for ambulance inspection. Regarding ambulance standards, the NFPA is working on version 3 of the 1917 standard, CAAS GVS Standard version 1 is in effect and they will begin working on version 2. GSA's Change Notice 10 is scheduled to be finalized in July and will incorporate all 10 of the SAE ambulance standards. The next issue is to create standards to address remounts or refurbished vehicles. NFPA intends to create a stand-alone document on remounts/refurbs. CAAS is also working on developing standards for remounts. GSA will not address refurbished ambulances because they do not purchase remounts/refurbished vehicles. Mike commented that Virginia is the only state that requires remounts to meet the same standards as new vehicles. Some of the remount companies believe they are not required to comply with the federal standards but have been informed otherwise.

Adjourn – The meeting adjourned at 4:08 PM EDT.

Next Meeting – August 9