



## HITS Committee Meeting

January 28, 2010

11:00 A.M. ET Teleconference

### Meeting Record

**Attending:** Dia Gainor (Chair), Mary Hedges (NASEMSO staff), Jim DeTienne (MT), Bob Cooney (PA), Jon Cramer (ID), Katherine Burke Moore (MN), Scott Winston (VA), John Bixler (FL), Chip Cooper (NH), Jolene Whitney (UT), Kevin McGinnis (NASEMSO staff), Lindsey Narloch (ND)

#### I. Federal Partner Interaction

**NHTSA Strategic Plan Comments** – Dia explained NASEMSO submitted comments to try to get more EMS-specific ideas on the table. The comments are posted on the NASEMSO website. See <http://www.nasemsd.org/Projects/HITS/index.asp>

**NCHRP Synthesis Project** – Dia said the synthesis project is a call for ideas and suggested partnering with Nadine Levick on submitting comments on ambulance safety. See <http://www.trb.org/SynthesisPrograms/SynthesesNCHRP.aspx>

**Invitation for Public Comment on RITA Strategic Plan for Research, Development & Technology Activities (2010-2015)** – RITA is a sister administration to NHTSA, which focuses on research. We may want to get EMS ideas for research topics, especially public safety technology ideas to enhance responder safety. Go to [http://www.rita.dot.gov/publications/federal\\_register/2010/html/rita\\_2010\\_01\\_08.html](http://www.rita.dot.gov/publications/federal_register/2010/html/rita_2010_01_08.html)

#### II. ERRA/MIECE

**Project Overview** – Dia referred members to the *HITS Projects and Partners* attachment which provides a short description of this new project. As a result of the Mexican Hat (Utah) motorcoach crash last year, NTSB challenged NASEMSO with responding; thus, the birth of this project. ERRA (Event Response Readiness Assessment) is modeled after the Trauma System Assessment. MIECE (Model Inventory of Emergency Care Elements) is modeled after USDOT's MIRE. MIECE would be a "proof of concept" project. We intend to partner with our highway safety counterparts on this project. Jolene Whitney (UT) and Chip Cooper (NH) will be on the steering committee, which meets for the first time next month.

#### III. Legislation

**H.R.4104** – The genesis of this bill is from an Indiana congressman who is a former sheriff and is aware of the line of duty deaths at traffic incident scenes. The bill calls for a repository

for data about the frequency and severity of these incidents. The bill specifically includes highway operations personnel, EMS, law enforcement, and fire/rescue. The bill can be found at <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?c111:H.R.4104>

There are two other bills of interest. **HR 2024** is intended to prevent crashes of heavy trucks by providing tax incentives for installation of technology to prevent crashes. NASEMSO's presumed interest is in safer trucks, fewer crashes, and more widespread market availability and affordability of such devices that they become mainstream considerations for ambulances and heavy emergency response vehicles.

The other, **HR 1799**, deals with heavy trucks and is intended to make roads safer through vehicle weight limit reform. NASEMSO's presumed interest is in safer trucks, fewer crashes, and more widespread market availability and affordability of such devices that they become mainstream considerations for ambulances and heavy emergency response vehicles.

These bills have been forwarded to NASEMSO's Executive Committee. The intent is for NASEMSO to partner with AASHTO on these.

#### **IV. Other Activities**

##### **Past**

**TRB Ambulance Safety Subcommittee** - The TRB meets every January and the Ambulance Safety Subcommittee meets at that time. Nadine Levick chairs the subcommittee. If any HITS Committee members are interested in joining the subcommittee, they are encouraged to do so. It is easy to join online. Dia also spoke of the Ambulance Safety Conference in Arizona, where she spoke along with Dr Levick.  
<http://objectivesafety.net/TRBSubcommittee.htm>

**TRB Summit** <http://www.objectivesafety.net/TRBSummit2009.htm>  
<http://www.nasemsd.org/Projects/HITS/Materials012810.asp>

**TSAG-NTIMC Briefing to USDOT**- Dia explained that she chairs TSAG, which recently partnered with NTIMC to brief some senior administrators at USDOT (RITA, FHWA, and NHTSA). The administrators responded that they did not recall a time when they all had an issue in common. They have committed doing this twice a year in Washington, DC. The senior administrators all committed to giving them the time. Dia said she is looking for interested members to join TSAG as she is over-extended.  
<http://www.nasemsd.org/Projects/HITS/Materials012810.asp>. Another important project is What's Next-Next Generation 9-1-1.

##### **In Progress**

**AASHTO National Highway Safety Strategic Plan** – John Bixler said what used to be referred to as the National Highway Safety Strategic Plan had very little information on EMS. The Steering Committee has changed the name to “Toward Zero Deaths; A National Strategy...In February a contractor will be brought on board to begin developing a white paper, and will be requesting input. John said we have a huge opportunity to update this

document and include EMS. John is now restricted by a Governor's order that prohibits out of state travel. <http://safety.transportation.org/>

**Research Projects** – Kevin McGinnis reported on his SHRP 2 research project to establish core competencies for each discipline in a traffic crash, using a scientific approach. They will pilot the course in 2 states (Indiana and Georgia) this year and course will be completed at the end of the year. The second project resulted from a European scan (where Kevin and 4 others spent two weeks in Europe studying how they handled traffic incidents). They have developed a guide based on a program in the Netherlands. All responders (tow truck driver, etc) everyone is expected to have first aid training. The product will be available this spring. <http://144.171.11.40/cmsfeed/TRBNetProjectDisplay.asp?ProjectID=1236>

**NTIMC** - Scott Winston sits on the National "TIM" Coalition. He noted the large number of groups involved at the federal level.

**Highway Safety Partners Venture (HSPV)** – Beth has been representing us at the HSPV meetings in the Washington area.

## **Future**

**NHTSA Office of Behavioral Research Effects of EMS on Crash Outcomes Research Model Development** - Dia has been invited to a meeting at NHTSA on February 10 to determine the research methodology on this project. She will have more information following the meeting.

**Wrap up Comments** - Kathy Burke Moore said Minnesota was the first state to complete a Highway Safety Plan and she helped write it. She would be happy to be involved where needed. Dia said in Idaho they chose to replace the EMS section with "Crash Response." Mary commented that once again, our job continues to be to educate our state and federal highway counterparts about EMS. Dia added that one of our new allies is Kelly Hardy at AASHTO.