



## HITS Committee Meeting

June 9, 2010

3:00 pm EDT Teleconference

### Meeting Record

#### Attending:

Dia Gainor, Chair  
Mary Hedges, NASEMSO  
Kevin McGinnis, NASEMSO

Bob Cooney (PA)  
Shirley Gastler (MO)  
Kathy Burke Moore (MN)

Max Severeid (NHTSA)  
Scott Winston (VA)  
Cyndy Wright-Johnson (MD)

#### Activities/Projects:

##### **ASTHO's Presidential Challenge: Reducing Preventable Death & Disability from Motor Vehicle Crashes**

Dia Gainor reported she was honored to attend *ASTHO's Summit on Reducing Preventable Death & Disability from Motor Vehicle Crashes* last month in Washington, DC. It brought together public health and highway safety communities, but unfortunately was lacking in EMS representation. There will be a white paper generated from the meeting, which will hopefully inspire states to adopt new strategies.

##### **Ambulance Crash Data: Pennsylvania's Experience**

Robert Cooney provided an overview of the ambulance crash information the Pennsylvania Bureau of EMS captures. Reviewing the 2008 report, he noted about 20% of the vehicles are not drivable after the crash, suggesting most crashes are not serious. Most crashes occur during daylight hours, in clear weather conditions and on dry road surfaces. 41% occurred when responding to an emergency. The majority of people injured are the male EMS providers (although he thinks there are more female EMS providers) and most injuries are minor. The number 1 cause of on-the-job injury to EMS providers is vehicle crashes. Bob also reviewed photos of changes in ambulance vehicles to make them safer. It was a project undertaken by one of their regional EMS councils which obtained waivers from the KKK specifications the state requires.

##### **Safe Transport of Kids in Ambulances Draft Guidelines**

Cyndy Wright-Johnson explained that the draft document is a result of a NHTSA-funded project. The project entailed a work group and a private contractor that compiled the guidelines. The guidelines only address transport by ground ambulances and do not apply to inter-facility or critical care transports. This document will not be printed because it is intended to be a living document that will change. NHTSA will hold a public hearing/webinar on August 5 to gather feedback on the draft document. Cyndy briefly reviewed some of the more controversial guidelines and explained the workgroup's rationale for each. One shortcoming she noted is there are no government standards for testing the pediatric restraint system/seats on cots in ambulances; they are tested to the manufacturers' standards.

##### **Highway Mass Casualty Project Update**

Dia reported that the project is proceeding nicely. It was presented at the Mid-Year meeting with examples of initial work shared and feedback sought. A full report will be presented at the NASEMSO Annual Meeting. For further information, see project materials on the NASEMSO/HITS website at <http://www.nasemsd.org/Projects/HITS/HighwayMassCasualtyReadinessProject.asp>

## Member Reports:

### **NTIMC: National Traffic Incident Management Coalition**

Scott Winston reported that the Coalition last met in March and will meet next week. The Coalition, now 6 years old, is working on obtaining more engagement from stakeholder groups. The Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices was recently released. The FHWA informed the Coalition of traffic incident management programs being held around the country. (Several HITS members expressed concern that there was a lack of awareness of this training by others engaged in similar efforts.) Scott further reported that Nancy McNab of NFPA informed the Coalition that NFPA is revising its ambulance professional qualification standard for behavior at traffic incidents. It is NFPA 1500 (chapter 8). There will be a NUG (National Unified Goal for Traffic Incident Management) conference in Baltimore on Sept. 21-22. The TIM Coalition has created a website to improve networking among TIM practitioners.

### **SHRP 2 – L12: Training/Cert. for Traffic Incident Responders**

Kevin McGinnis reported the course for traffic incident responders has been developed and pilot-tested in two states very successfully. They are expecting publication of the course curriculum in the fall.

### **Traffic Incident Management Program for Worker Safety**

Kevin McGinnis indicated the project is nearing completion. A tool is expected to be available in the fall for responders to use in creating a plan for traffic incident management for emergency responder safety.

### **TSAG: Transportation Safety Advancement Group**

Dia reported that TSAG will meet next week. TSAG received an award to write a *What's Next? Next Generation 9-1-1* white paper from the viewpoint of emergency response groups.

### **Toward Zero Deaths (TZD)**

Mary Hedges referred to the "Toward Zero Deaths" update in the meeting materials and encouraged people to participate in the webinars being held this month. She noted the importance of capturing the EMS perspective in the webinars so that highway safety initiative includes EMS in the national strategy being developed. The TZD steering committee is looking for 6 representatives of NASEMSO to attend an invitation-only conference in Washington, DC, August 25-26. Please contact Mary if interested. Kathy Burke-Moore expressed possible interest in attending.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 PM EDT.

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