



HITS Committee Meeting

May 7, 2012

3:00 – 5:00 P.M. EDT

Mid Year Meeting

Hyatt Regency Hotel

Bethesda, Maryland

Meeting Record

Attending:

Dennis Blair, Chair (AL)	Beth Edgerton (HRSA)	Samar Muzaffar (MO)
Dale Adkerson (OK)	Dia Gainor (NASEMSO)	Paul Patrick (UT)
Rick Alcorta (MD)	Andy Gienapp (WY)	Abdullah Rayahem (MA)
K. Altenhofen (IA)	Diane Hainsworth (DE)	Aarron Reinert (NEMSAC)
E. Armstrong(NASEMSO)	Karen Halupke (NJ)	Jason Rhodes (RI)
Bob Bass (MD)	Joe Hansen (MT)	K. Robinson (NASEMSO)
Pam Biladeau (MN)	Mary Hedges (NASEMSO)	J. Rosenbohn
Joe Bourgraf (Ferno)	Patrick Irwin (NV)	Joe Schmider (PA)
Gary Brown (VA)	Randy Kuykendall (CO)	Bill Seifarth (DHS)
Greg Brown (AR)	Jeff Leaming (OH)	Noah Smith (NHTSA)
Dean Cole (NE)	George Lindbeck (VA)	Tomi St. Mars (AZ)
Carol Cunningham (OH)	Brian Litzka (WI)	Chris Stoker (ID)
Drew Dawson (NHTSA)	Susan McHenry (NHTSA)	Keith Wages (GA)
Wayne Denny (ID)	Ray Mollers (DHS)	Forest Weyen (KY)
Jim DeTienne (MT)	Mickey Moore (GA)	Scott Winston (VA)

- I. **Welcome and Roll Call** – Dennis Blair, Chair, welcomed committee members and guests to the meeting, noting the focus of the meeting is ambulance safety design.
- II. **DHS/NIST Ambulance Patient Compartment Design Workshop, Feb 29** – Randy Kuykendall reported on his participation in this workshop on behalf of NASEMSO. These projects are unrelated to the NFPA 1917 ambulance standards effort. They are funded by the Department of Homeland Security and the National Institute of Standards and Technology. The purpose was to solicit input from users on ambulance vehicle design.
- III. **NFPA 1917 Ambulance Standards Update** – Aarron Reinert explained that he (representing NEMSMA) served as a member of the NFPA 1917 Technical Committee, which developed the proposed automotive ambulance standards. The proposed standards document passed the NPPA 1917 Technical Committee by a one-vote margin, and is scheduled to be voted upon at the NFPA membership meeting this summer. He estimated that the new standards may add about \$20,000 to the price of an ambulance. One concern is that safety work that is almost complete (NIOSH efforts, etc.) will not be reflected in these standards. While there are some safety features included, they are not as significant as they could be, in his opinion. Even if the NFPA 1917 standards immediately return to the revision cycle, it will be several years before

new safety standards could be included. He posed the question that if states adopt the NFPA 1917 standard, will this limit ambulance makers from newer innovative designs?

IV. **Special Presentation: Ambulance Design: We've Only Gone from Hearses to Deathtraps—Radical Insights into the Future of Ambulance Safety Every State EMS Director Needs**

Dia Gainor introduced Joe Bourgraf, President of Ferno. Mr. Bourgraf stated that 70% of their business is international and 30% is in the U.S. He is concerned about how little change there has been in ambulance vehicle design by manufacturers in North America over the years. Ferno has primarily been working with the military and in Europe over the past several years. He added that American Industrial Manufacturers is a private equity firm that owns most of the ambulance vehicle manufacturing firms in the U.S. Mr. Bourgraf reviewed various regulatory efforts and projects to improve EMS transport safety and identified many shortcomings. For example, 13 states allow no exceptions to KKK standards, which precludes the introduction of new, safer ambulances in those states. Also, there are holes in safety research, e.g., NIOSH testing has failed to include aortic shear and C-Spine whip in its testing. Ferno used the experience gained working with the military to incorporate into a new ambulance design. He believes high pressure oxygen cylinders are overkill on the ambulance. He presented a video of Ferno's new design for the patient cot, as well as a medic chair with built in restraint which is compatible with providing patient care. To make these designs work, they needed to integrate it into the ambulance vehicle. They acquired *ACETECH*, a small company from Ireland which produces vehicle intelligence system for controlling and monitoring vehicle performance. He estimated this new ambulance of the future will result in a 30% decrease in cost over present day ambulances.

V. **EMS Presentation for State Highway Safety Meetings** (Work Plan Goal 3) – Dia Gainor said she has developed a stock power point presentation available for use by state EMS Officials to use when making presentations to their highway safety colleagues.

VI. **Project and Committee Updates**

- A. Toward Zero Deaths (TZD) National Strategy Update - Dia reported the national strategy document has been sent back to the contractor for revisions. The good news is that it features a section on EMS which should not significantly change.
- B. NTIMC: National Traffic Incident Management Coalition - Scott Winston reported they met to refocus their efforts administratively and are reorganizing this initiative.
- C. NCHRP 20-24(37)K, Measuring Performance Among State DOTs: Sharing Good Practices -- Serious Crash Injury - Dia reported she learned of this project after it was initiated but she is now involved.
- D. NCHRP 20-05, Models for Effective Emergency Medical Services Response to Motor Vehicle Crashes in Rural Areas - Jim DeTienne reported that the goal of this project is to identify models that are effective. He serves on the panel along with Dean Cole and Dia Gainor.
- E. NCHRP 17-57, Development of an Improved Metric for Serious Traffic Crash Injuries – Dia serves on the panel overseeing this two-year, \$450,000 project. Clay Mann, University of Utah, and the Transportation Research Institute at the University of Michigan are contractors for the project. They will be working on linking hospital discharge records with crash records.
- F. NCHRP 20-07, Developing a Framework for Emergency Responder/Roadside Worker Struck-by/Near-miss Database - Mary Hedges reported that she serves on this panel which held its

first meeting last month via teleconference. This is a one-year project to design the framework for creating a standardized data set and database for collecting information about incidents where emergency responders and roadway workers are struck by or nearly struck by vehicles.

VII. Other Business – Dennis stated that he would like to see this committee discuss its reaction to the NFPA 1917 standards.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 PM.

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