



HITS Committee Meeting/Forum

May 5, 2011, 1:00 – 3:00 pm

NASEMSO Mid Year Meeting

Loews Hotel, Annapolis, Maryland

Meeting Record

Attending:

Dennis Blair, Chair (AL)
Maxie Bishop (TX)
Gary Brown (VA)

Carol Cunningham (OH)
Mary Hedges (NASEMSO)
Susan McHenry (NHTSA)

Tom Mitchell (NC)
Donna Tidwell (TN)
Jolene Whitney (UT)

- I. New HITS Committee Chair: Dennis Blair was welcomed as the new chair of the HITS Committee, replacing outgoing chair Dia Gainor, who began as NASEMSO Executive Director on May 2. Mary Hedges commented that Dia's contributions in getting the HITS Committee off to a good start will serve members well, and that Dennis will be able to draw on his experience on the recent NASEMSO Highway Mass Casualty Project as he steps in as Committee Chair. Dennis thanked NASEMSO for their vote of confidence and said he looks forward to what the Committee can do in the area of collaborating with highway safety partners to benefit EMS.

- II. Results of the Highway Mass Casualty Project: Mary gave a power point presentation on the Highway Mass Casualty Project. The deliverables, MIECE Proof of Concept and EIRRA, have been provided to NHTSA and will be presented to FICEMS in June. The work group included highway safety partners and EMS representatives. Dennis Blair and Jolene Whitney, HITS members present today, served on the work group. The project was initially conceived by Dia Gainor and submitted as NASEMSO's response to the NTSB recommendations following the Mexican Hat bus crash in rural Utah.
 - A. **The Model Inventory of Emergency Care Elements (MIECE)** was limited to a Proof of Concept to determine if the project would be useful if fully developed. Mary showed examples of how emergency care elements were defined and scored and what a color-coded highway map, depicting the level of EMS resources and capacity by segments of highway, would look like. Those present discussed the value and potential uses of a fully developed MIECE project. Susan McHenry pointed out that they have been discussing the projects with their sister division, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), which to date has been unfamiliar with EMS issues.
 - B. **The EMS Incident Response & Readiness Assessment (EIRRA)** is the other deliverable of the Highway Mass Casualty Project. An assessment tool designed to measure the preparedness level of EMS systems to respond to mass casualty incidents, EIRRA can be used locally, regionally or statewide. Twenty-eight state EMS offices have now completed the statewide assessment, and summary results have been compiled in a two-page document. Mary pointed out that the scores can be used as benchmarks and to measure

progress over time. Another potential use could be to demonstrate areas in need of improvement for grant applications, including the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) grants. Many state EMS offices have funded their data collection systems with the help of 408 and/or 402 funding from highway safety offices. Susan McHenry pointed out that she insisted that NEMSIS language be included in the federal grant guidance for these programs, which resulted in many state EMS data systems obtaining funding. Discussion focused on how a similar approach could be used for HSIP funding.

- III. Proposed Goals and Strategic Directions – Completing the NASEMSO HITS Work Plan: At the NASEMSO Executive Committee Retreat in December, it was decided to ask all councils and committees to develop a work plan based on a common template. Dia had previously asked Mary to draft a work plan to present to the Committee for discussion and action. The Committee reviewed the draft HITS work plan, discussing each of the goals listed below.
- A. **Goal #1. Increase NASEMSO representation at national highway safety-related meetings.** Dennis distributed a list of national highway safety meetings that ideally should have NASEMSO representation. The problem is obtaining the funding to support member travel because funding for this was not included in the Cooperative Agreement with NHTSA, OEMS. It is hoped that NASEMSO can obtain travel support from FHWA in the future. Members were encouraged to identify meetings they may be willing to attend, and possibly seek financial support from their state highway safety counterparts, at least until NASEMSO can obtain funding to support such outreach.
 - B. **Goal #2. Recruit and engage HITS members to serve as active NASEMSO liaisons to various highway safety-related national committees and organizations.** Mary described some of the highway safety related organizations and committees in which NASEMSO members or staff participate. Dia chairs the Transportation Safety Advancement Group (TSAG); Scott Winston has been our representative to the National Traffic Incident Management Coalition. John Bixler had previously served on the Toward Zero Deaths (TZD) Steering Committee until his state imposed travel limitations, and Mary and Dia have since been filling this role. The Transportation Research Board (TRB) Annual Meeting was discussed as an excellent learning experience. The TRB's Ambulance Safety Subcommittee, chaired by Nadine Levick and Eileen Frazier, is in need of NASEMSO involvement. Dr. Carol Cunningham expressed an interest in participating. Mary will send her more information on the committee's next meeting in November.
 - C. **Goal #3. Educate State EMS Offices on effective collaboration with their respective state highway safety counter parts.** One objective of this goal is to create a document explaining different highway/transportation programs at the state level for the benefit of state EMS officials. The intent would be to inform state EMS officials about highway programs relevant to EMS and what grant assistance might be available. Dennis emphasized the importance of developing scenarios or examples of EMS projects that could be funded by highway grants.
 - D. **Goal #4. Complete a state by state assessment of the EMS system's capacity to respond to mass casualty incidents on the nation's roadways, using the newly developed EIRRA tool.**

This goal was recently completed. Next steps would be to continue encouraging states to find uses for the tool, such as using it to apply for HSIP funding and measuring progress.

- E. **Goal # 5. Promote the concept of a Model Inventory of Emergency Care Elements (MIECE) similar to the model inventories of highway partners (MIRE, MMUCC, etc).** MIECE Proof of Concept was completed in March. The next step is to determine if the project should be fully developed, and if so, to obtain funding for the complete development of MIECE.
- F. **PARKED (meant for future action) – The possibility of forming an Ambulance Safety Subcommittee or Work Group** was discussed at last year's mid-year HITS meeting. Should this be included as a future goal? Susan McHenry mentioned this will, in part, be addressed by the Culture of Safety grant, being led by ACEP.

IV. Member Reports/Standing Meetings: Mary briefly described the following committees and organizations and NASEMSO's history of involvement.

- A. **Transportation Research Board, EMS Safety Subcommittee** - Dia Gainor attended the TRB Annual Meeting in January of 2011, where the EMS Safety Subcommittee met.
- B. **Traffic Incident Management Program for Worker Safety** - Kevin McGinnis authored a course on traffic incident responder safety, funded through a NCHRP grant.
- C. **NTIMC: National Traffic Incident Management Coalition** - Scott Winston has represented NASEMSO and continues to be involved in this organization.
- D. **SCOHTS: AASHTO Standing Committee on Highway Traffic Safety** - Dia Gainor has served on this committee.
- E. **TSAG: Transportation Safety Advancement Group** - Dia Gainor has been very involved and currently serves as TSAG chair.
- F. **Highway Safety Partners Venture (HSPV)** – Mary Hedges and Beth Armstrong have been involved with this coalition that meets every other month in the Washington, DC area. Mary said it would be helpful to identify a HITS member who lives nearby to attend this meeting, because it is difficult for her to justify the travel for a two-hour meeting. This is an important group for getting to know many key highway safety representatives. Gary Brown said he would ask Scott Winston about attending this meeting.
- G. **Toward Zero Deaths (TZD)** - Mary and Dia have both been serving on the TZD Steering Committee. In August of 2010, several NASEMSO members participated in the national TZD stakeholders meeting in Washington. In addition, NASEMSO contributed to drafting a white paper on EMS that was used as the basis for a discussion group at the meeting. There will be new activity related to the TZD national effort in the near future.

V. Other Business / Member Questions / Comments: Dennis thanked the new members at today's meeting and asked if they would like to join the HITS Committee or at least be added to the email list. They all agreed to be added.

Meeting Record was respectfully prepared by NASEMSO Program Manager Mary Hedges.