



## HITS Committee Meeting

August 11, 2010

3:00 pm EDT Teleconference

### Meeting Record

#### Attending:

Dia Gainor, Chair  
Mary Hedges, NASEMSO  
Dr. George Kennedy (NM)

Shirley Gastler (MO)  
John Cramer (ID)  
Lindsey Narloch (ND)

Cyndy Wright-Johnson (MD)  
Kirk Schmitt (IA)

#### Highway Mass Casualty Readiness Project Update

Dia indicated that the meeting would focus primarily on the Highway Mass Casualty Project. The work group had its second in-person meeting last week and accomplished a great deal of work on both parts of the project: ERRA and MIECE. The project is a result of recommendations by the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) following the 2008 Mexican Hat, Utah, motor coach crash in a remote area of the state. Dia reviewed a new power point presentation on the NHTSA-funded project. The project will be presented at the Annual Meeting in October seeking NASEMSO's endorsement.

The **Model Inventory of Emergency Care Elements** or **MIECE** (pronounced like mice) has been revised somewhat. Its purpose is to define measureable characteristics of an emergency care system by geography (counties along major highways). The MIECE portion of the project is intended to create a proof of concept only, to determine its usefulness before further development. The work group identified six components for MIECE. These are: **transportation, personnel, equipment, medical facilities, PSAPS/communications, and other**. Within each component, characteristics will be listed and defined. For example, transportation would include number of ambulances expected to respond within 30, 60, 90 minutes. Dia showed a hypothetical color-coded state map indicating level of preparedness by county, using MIECE characteristics. For now, it would only show counties along major traffic routes. Assuming MIECE receives NASEMSO endorsement, a Blue Ribbon Panel will meet in December to determine the feasibility and utility of MIECE.

The **Event Response Readiness Assessment** or **ERRA** is the other part of the Highway Mass Casualty Readiness Project. Like MIECE, the end result of ERRA (a scorecard) is intended to serve as a risk assessment tool for highway travelers to determine level of EMS readiness to respond to mass casualty incidents on or near highways. The assessment results can also serve as a benchmarking tool for communities, regions or states to measure EMS readiness. It is modeled after the Trauma System Assessment tool created by HRSA. ERRA defines benchmarks and includes a scoring system for the various indicators within each benchmark. ERRA will be developed in full and will be piloted in December by four areas or states in different regions of the nation. Following the pilot, revisions will be made before distributing it nationwide. The final product (ERRA) is due to NHTSA in April of 2011.

### **Toward Zero Deaths: A National Strategy**

At the end of the month, six representatives from NASEMSO will participate in a national summit intended to create a national strategy for reducing highway fatalities. NASEMSO is one of eight organizations on the Steering Committee, represented by John Bixler and Mary Hedges. The other seven representatives are from highway safety organizations. Attending the summit from NASEMSO will be Dia Gainor (ID), Kirk Schmitt (IA), Rich Rucker (OH), Jim DeTienne (MT), Dolly Fernandes (WA), and Rene Fechter (MD).

The meeting concluded at 4:00 PM EDT.

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