

# Joint Committee on Rural Emergency Care

## Meeting Notes

April 9, 2019

**Attending:** Andy Gienapp, Kevin McGinnis, Matt Strycker, Nita Hamm, Nicole Clement, Chelsea White, Andrea Abbas, Christy Edwards, Lorah Ludwig, Tim Wilson, Teryl Eisinger, Alia Hayes, Lynette Dickson, Tim Held, Jon Krohmer, Joyce Hospodar, Carol Isaac, Zoe Renfro

The meeting was call to order at 3:07 PM by the chair, Andy Gienapp.

### Review of March Meeting Notes

The meeting notes were approved as submitted.

### Organization Reports

#### NASEMSO – Andy Gienapp/Kevin McGinnis

Andy invited everyone to visit Salt Lake City for the NASEMSO Annual Meeting (May 13-16).

Andy confirmed there will be a REPLICA meeting on the Thursday and Friday of the Annual Meeting. Andy expressed hope they will finalize the first set of rules at that meeting. Andy encouraged those who are REPLICA states, or who are considering REPLICA legislation, to attend.

Kevin thanked Zoe Renfro for taking the notes today. He reported NASEMSO has agreed to sign on to a new MOU for an NG9-1-1 alliance. The alliance will pursue \$12 billion in funding for NG9-1-1.

A question was asked about any NASEMSO Annual Meeting sessions that might relate to the rural tactical plan or rural EMS in general. Kevin reported there will be a Rural Committee meeting at which they will go over the rural frontier tactical plan in detail, and CMS staff will speak about the ET3 program at the CP-MiH meeting.

Kevin reported on the rural and frontier tactical plan project. The public comment period has just concluded and staff has addressed all comments. The document is now in Teryl's hands and is being reviewed by FORHP.

#### NOSORH – Joyce Hospodar/Teryl Eisinger

Teryl reported NOSORH's Board has been working on a strategy that marries well with NASEMSO's policies. The strategy is focused on cultivating an innovative rural health landscape and infrastructure, growing leadership for population health and health equity, and building

capacity for data-driven programs and decision-making. Teryl noted she is curious to see how this will be married to the work of state EMS offices and this Committee.

Joyce noted that this Committee could mine the five-year grants for material relevant to the states to assess state-NOSORH alignment, suggesting we're all about to get a better understanding of what the states are doing under Flex with EMS.

Matt reported that NOSORH will launch an online EMS grant-writing institute this summer. Pre-recorded content will permit taking the course at one's leisure.

#### NRHA and Washington Update – Diane Calmus

Diane being absent, no report was given.

#### NRHRC (TASC) – Nicole Clement/Tracy Morton

Nicole reported that in response to Teryl's work with her and FORHP regarding current EMS programs, they held a small group EMS meeting last month in Tampa. The purpose of the meeting was to convene experts and stakeholders in rural EMS and rural hospitals to develop key strategies to support the transition of rural EMS services to a value model. The objectives of the meeting were to identify the issues and challenges related to engagement between rural providers, and identify the opportunities, strategies, and official resources to promote that collaborative engagement. They will publish a summary of that meeting within about a month. It was discussed at the meeting that FLEX programs might be interested in what other programs are doing, yet they may not always be in close contact.

Nicole reported there are a few other EMS-related activities supported by funding from the federal office. They are working with Kevin to create an EMS agency online self-assessment for readiness to transition to value. They will release a guide in the next few months about regionalization (or integration) of EMS. Before the Reverse Site Visit (RSV) on July 10-11 in DC, there will be an EMS learning session for FLEX programs on July 9. More information to come about that soon.

#### NAEMSP – Chelsea White

Chelsea reported there are no major NAEMSP updates relevant to this Committee. Although they could not get it in the budget this year, NAEMSP will try to secure NAEMSP funding for next year's Rural Conference. Looking forward to the Conference, NAEMSP will hold an NAEMSP Rural Committee meeting on the evening of Day 1 (Wednesday the 17<sup>th</sup> at 5pm). Although a majority of the Committee members will call in remotely, there will be at least three present at the Conference. Chelsea looks forward to the presentation on rural and remote EMS he will give at the conference. He is currently in Australia preparing to present at a conference.

#### 2019 Conference Update – Matt Strycker

Matt is looking forward to seeing everyone at the conference next week. He is working with Donna to finish up last-minute touches. There are now 80 registered with 4 vendors. Matt

asked Committee members to look out for a “safe travels” email on Thursday with logistical information.

#### ORHP Update – Christy Edwards

Christy expressed interest in discussing the information mentioned previously by Nicole and Teryl regarding FLEX grants and state EMS offices. There is no report on the Flex applications at this point.

#### Community Paramedicine - Mobile Integrated Health

No report was given.

#### CMS/CMMI reimbursement changes – “ET3” Program Update – Kevin

Kevin noted there have been a few different workshops recently that have clarified some details. Kevin reported there are two pilot programs forthcoming. One pilot, for any eligible Medicare ambulance service, involves (1) treat and no transport with reimbursement and (2) treat and transport the patient to an alternate destination and be reimbursed. The pilot will need to involve some form of contact with a “provider,” since EMS is not considered “providers” but suppliers. That means on scene there must either be a Medicare-recognized “provider” or a telemedicine connection to a remote “provider” involved in decision-making. Kevin reported the cap on this first pilot program is about 30% of all Medicare ambulance services. Services can apply to be in the pilot over the next five years.

The second pilot is for emergency medical dispatch. In the event there is a Medicare ambulance service participating in Pilot 1, an eligible dispatch service can participate in Pilot 2 on triaging patients to alternative resources. That would be limited to 40 governmental dispatch centers (neither private nor hospital).

Kevin reported NASEMSO has invited CMMI ET3 staff to attend the NASEMSO Annual Meeting to address the project.

Alia asked whether having an existing community paramedicine program might disqualify a service from Pilot 1, noting that CP programs already address calls with some of the measures ET3 seeks to promote. Kevin replied the question has come up and they don’t know quite what to do about that circumstance. Kevin noted it’s possible that might confuse matters. noting there’s not quite enough information available to address in-depth questions yet.

#### Calendar Updates

No calendar updates were given.

#### Other Business/Open Discussion and Share EMS-Rural Health Partnership News in Your State

Andy noted Kevin is on his way to Wyoming to facilitate two stakeholder CP meetings to aid in launching community paramedicine sites. Kevin’s assistance will be funded in part by the

Wyoming's FLEX grant money. Andy expressed hope that they will also discuss the informed self-determination project as part of the tactical plan.

Joyce reported the Arizona Bureau of EMS and Trauma and Vitalis Health Foundation sponsored an ET3 overview. Arizona staff attended. Joyce will request approval to share their meeting notes with JCREC.

Dr. Krohmer from NHTSA noted there was a brief opportunity for comment on ET3 and that timeframe has long passed. The team is continuing to revise the guidance document and hopes to have something out to the public in July. Jon noted there probably won't be much information released between now and the official guidance release.

Jon also reported the Scope of Practice Revision has been published and is available for download on EMS.gov.

#### [Additional organizations have expressed a desire to join JCREC \(EMS-C, NAEMT\)](#)

Kevin reported that NAEMT made a request during the second comment period for the rural frontier tactical plan that JCREC should expand its membership to include NAEMT and other associations with an interest in rural EMS. Kevin is bringing the request to JCREC for consideration. He said he didn't expect more than to bring this to the group's attention today for future consideration. He noted that JCREC has been a volunteer effort with volunteer staff, and more organizations involved may have an impact on that.

Kevin also received a request for EMSC, a program under HRSA, to become a member akin to FORHP. We responded that we have treated FORHP as HRSA's official liaison for JCREC; however, EMSC is welcome to attend JCREC meetings (and Lorah has been doing that regularly).

Joyce suggested this is good timing to think about levels, responsibilities and commitments of members as they relate to the JCREC workplan and the former JCREC MOU between JCREC and individual members. She suggested the officers should discuss this in a small group. Andy said that this Committee has been pretty informal, and from his perspective, the door is open to any organization that wants to put their shoulder to the task and help us work on rural emergency care. He and Joyce stated that they are amenable to other organizations sitting in until we make a decision on membership.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:45 pm.