



## NASEMSO Medical Directors Council

July 1, 2013

1:00 – 2:30 PM EDT

### Meeting Record

**Attending:** Joe Nelson, Chair (FL), Rick Alcorta (MD), Harold Backer (CA), Carol Cunningham (OH), Beth Edgerton (HRSA), Mary Hedges (NASEMSO), Joe Holley (TN), Julia Martin (KY), Sara Nafziger (AL), Rich Kamin (CT), Doug Kupas (PA), Matt Sholl (ME), Harry Sibold (MT), Peter Taillac (UT)

**Call to Order and Roll Call** – Joe Nelson, Chair, called the meeting to order and asked for a motion to approve the May 6 meeting record. Carol Cunningham moved /Julia Martin seconded the meeting record be approved. The motion carried.

**New Member Introduction and Welcome** – The following new medical directors were appointed by their respective states. Mary Hedges noted that Dr. Hornung, from Kansas, has been a member of the Medical Directors Council in the past. She also commented that this is the first time she can recall that North Dakota has designated a state medical director. (None of the new members were on the call.) Rick Alcorta suggested encouraging new members to attend Leadership Skill course at the Annual Meeting. They include:

- Dr. Brian Froelke (Missouri)
- Dr. Randy Szlabick (North Dakota)
- Dr. Joel Hornung (Kansas) returning

**NHTSA EBG Strategy Grant** – Mary Hedges reported that shortly after the May 6 Council meeting, she learned of a competitive grant opportunity from NHTSA that was intended for applicants from national organizations with experience in prehospital medical direction and evidence-based guidelines. The Request for Applications sought a 2-year proposal for \$90,000 to develop a strategy for developing, promoting and implementing prehospital evidence-based guidelines. Joe Nelson said the NASEMSO Board decided to apply, as well as send a letter of support on behalf of NAEMSP's grant application. Mary wrote the grant application entitled "National Strategy for Prehospital Evidence-Based Guidelines" and submitted it on the due date of June 20. Dr. Douglas Kupas was identified as the Principal Investigator. Mary added that she is aware that NAEMSP, ACEP and NASEMSO all applied for the grant and it is NASEMSO's intent to work collaboratively with whichever entity is awarded the contract.

**Model EMS Guidelines Update** – Carol Cunningham reported that the Model EMS Guidelines work group continues to meet monthly with small groups meeting in between. The Air Medical Physicians Association (AMPA)'s representative, Bill Gerard resigned and Craig Bates, an AMPA Board member, has been appointed to replace him. The second in-person meeting will be at the end of the month in Minneapolis.

**Statewide Implementation of a Prehospital Care Guideline Update** – Matt Sholl reported that the project is moving forward. They are currently in the process of meeting with the five participating states to customize the toolkits for each state. Some of the material they want to use is not yet available as it is embargoed by PEC, but should be published soon.

**Federal Partner Updates** – Beth Edgerton (HRSA-EMSC) thanked the Medical Directors Council for setting aside time for Dr. Manish Shah to present his EMSC Targeted Issues grant project at the Annual Meeting. The EMS for Children (EMSC) program is preparing to announce the recipients of new grants. Dr. Edgerton said they are looking at implementing new performance measures for the EMSC partnership (state) grants. They have been using the current performance measures for a number of years and wish to develop new measures.

**Regional Representatives Reports** – Drs. Kamin (Northeast), Nafziger (Southeast), Sibold (West)

The regional representatives had no news to report from their regions.

Mary said that Paul Satterlee is no longer the designated assistant state medical director in Minnesota and will no longer be able to serve as a member of the Medical Directors Council or the North Central Regional Representative. Members decided to wait until the Annual Meeting to elect his replacement.

### **Annual Meeting Agenda Planning**

Members reviewed the draft agenda for the upcoming Annual Meeting, which Mary compiled from the requests at the last meeting. An orientation for new members of the Medical Directors Council will be the first thing on the agenda Monday morning. Cunningham, Sholl, Kupas, Alcorta, and Hedges previously volunteered to develop the orientation. There are still several slots for agenda topics available.

Doug Kupas suggested an update on CARES (Cardiac Arrest Registry to Enhance Survival) as the program has changed significantly in the last year. Rick Alcorta added a CARES presentation should include strategies for recruitment of hospitals. Doug suggested asking Brian McNally to speak on CARES and offered to contact him. There was significant discussion and interest in hearing more about CARES. Doug said Pennsylvania has been very engaged in CARES; the success increased as the EMS regions became involved in promoting it among the hospitals in their respective regions. Peter Taillac said the Utah Department of Health promoted CARES as a performance improvement project and hired a half-time coordinator which has made a difference. Every 6 months they produce a report for participating hospitals on their cardiac survival rate which can be compared to the state average. The medics need training on interpreting what constitutes cardiac arrest, and the half time coordinator has been doing some of this. Rich Kamin pointed out there is value in being involved in this program as a whole. Julia Martin offered that Kentucky eliminated the transmission of EKGs from the field and now relies on the EMS crew to interpret the 12 lead. BLS services can apply a 12 lead EKG and have the Medic read it but they are experimenting with having EMTs read the top line if it is a STEMI, she added. Howard Backer said it seems a bigger issue is how to obtain data from the hospitals. Rich Kamin said many of the different data programs at hospitals overlap and this should be emphasized when requesting cooperation from hospitals.

Peter will lead the discussion on selective spinal immobilization at the meeting in Nashville. This is a sensitive issue and may be difficult to sell to colleagues. Rich Kamin said that New England is moving forward with selective spinal immobilization, and he has had no push back from the trauma folks. Julia Martin said Kentucky has pushed to minimize use of spinal immobilization due to skin breakdown they

were seeing from the long waits on spine boards. Peter Taillac said he is drafting the model guideline on selective spinal immobilization for the Model EMS Clinical Guidelines project and has found some very interesting research to support this approach.

#### **Committee and Project Updates – Various Members**

- **Institute of Medicine’s Crisis Standards of Care Toolkit Project:** Carol Cunningham reported that she and Jolene Whitney, Trauma Manager and Deputy Director from Utah Bureau of EMS, served on the Crisis Standards of Care Toolkit project. ASPR at DHHS, Veterans Health Administration, and NHTSA requested and funded this project. She and Jolene just finished writing the EMS chapter of the toolkit. It will be submitted to Dr. Nicole Lurie for approval at the end of July and is expected to be published in September.

It was noted that the next meeting is August 26, a week early due to the Labor Day holiday. Peter Taillac asked if it was necessary to meet in August if the Annual Meeting is September 16-17. Joe Nelson said the August 26 meeting will remain on the schedule but will be cancelled if there is no pressing business.

The meeting adjourned at 2:07 PM EDT.

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