



NASEMSO Medical Directors Council

August 24, 2020, 1:00 PM EDT

Meeting Record

Attending - George Lindbeck (Chair), Mary Hedges (NASEMSO), Hannah Degn (NASEMSO), Joe Holley (TN), Andy Gienapp (WY), Peter Taillac (UT), Sharon Malone (TX), Daniel Wolfson (VT), Michael Levy (AK), Michael Kaufmann (IN), Tripp Winslow (NC), Riccardo Colella (WI), Jon Krohmer (NHTSA), Curtis Sandy (ID), Dia Gainor (NASEMSO), Rachael Alter (NASEMSO), Jason Kegg (IL), Douglas Kupas (PA), Ken Schepcke (FL), Bill Fales (MI), Gail Bradley (AZ), Jeff Beckman (CO), Carol Cunningham (OH), Joey Scollan (NH), Matthew Sholl (ME), Kate Zimmerman (ME), Lynn Wittwer (WA)

Call to Order, Welcome, Self-Introductions – Dr. George Lindbeck called the meeting to order at 1:03 PM EDT. He introduced Hannah Degn, NASEMSO Project Coordinator. He also welcomed Andy Geinapp, state director from Wyoming and NASEMSO President-Elect.

NHTSA Update – Dr. Jon Krohmer said they recently rolled out a COVID Resource Reporting Tool for EMS which is intended to track the supply of PPE for EMS. He is looking forward to the Pain Management EBG project getting started.

Approval of July 6th Meeting Record – The July 6th meeting minutes were approved as submitted.

Monitoring Patients in Custody – Dr. George Lindbeck shared that NASEMSO was approached by a reporter for the Associated Press from Denver about the use of ketamine, and he was asked to speak to the reporter. The issue was related to the tragic death of a young man who was administered ketamine by a paramedic while in police custody in 2019. He spoke with her about the issues surrounding use of ketamine and excited delirium. Doug Kupas expressed caution about getting pulled into a controversial matter and referenced the recent joint position paper on ketamine. Jeff Beckman said that use of ketamine by EMS in Colorado dates back to 2011. Ketamine is only currently in their state's scope of practice for Paramedics with a critical care endorsement, but EMS medical directors can request a waiver through the Department of Public Health for Paramedics without the endorsement to use ketamine. Tripp Winslow said they just spent about 4 years to have ketamine approved in North Carolina by their state medical board and it is now available for EMS. He is concerned that EMS will become a tool of law enforcement who may pressure EMS to administer it. Carol Cunningham added that, in Ohio, the use of ketamine should be followed by transport to the hospital and not the jail. Ken Schepcke emphasized that excited delirium is a medical issue and these patients should go to the hospital.

Jeff Beckman added that regarding the tragic death of Elijah McClain in 2019, the case has been taken on by their attorney general's office. He offered to share a data presentation the Department of Public Health created on ketamine use by EMS. Tripp Winslow thinks this may be an opportunity for EMS to step in when there are mental health cases, including excited delirium. Jeff Beckman agreed noting that EMS can often intervene more safely than law enforcement.

EMS Provider Roles During COVID Pandemic Survey Results (attached) – Dr. Lindbeck shared the final results of the COVID survey regarding EMS roles. Tripp Winslow expressed the goal of having EMS at the table when making decisions regarding public health emergencies such as the COVID-19 pandemic. Michael Kaufmann said that, in Indiana, EMS has been at the table every step of the way in the COVID pandemic. He believes a major limitation is the way EMS is funded.

Time Sensitive Care Coalition White Paper, revised draft (attached) – Dr. Michael Levy explained that Mic Gunderson, as a representative of the American College of Cardiology, was the project lead on the document. The committee was made up of several other organizations. Mike Levy served on the committee as a representative of NAEMSP and NASEMSO. An earlier draft was not well received by NAEMSP because of a lack of focus on the role of EMS and EMS medical direction. The paper was revised; however, NAEMSP again did not endorse it because they felt that EMS was added as an afterthought rather than an integral part of time sensitive care systems. Carol Cunningham and George Lindbeck agreed that they did not see substantial changes in the document. Dr. Levy said the preamble referred to the various groups involved but the role of the different stakeholder groups is not well described in the body of the document. Riccardo Colella questioned if we could not insert the language about EMS into the document. Mike Levy said that EMS was added but it seemed to be an afterthought. He does not think there is a lot of room for major revisions at this point.

Dr. Cunningham moved that the Medical Directors Council recommend to the Board of Directors that NASEMSO not sign on to the document. Joe Holley seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Interfacility Transport Position Paper, draft 2 (attached) – Dr. Lindbeck asked members who have not yet reviewed the second draft to review and provide feedback to him. He also asked members how the paper should be used. Dr. Kaufmann said he thinks it would be helpful to take to legislators and should be shared with NAEMSP and ACEP. Dr. Lindbeck will first get approval of the NASEMSO Board.

Research Project: State-level EMS protocol changes enacted during COVID-19 Pandemic – Rachael Alter sent an email last week about a survey regarding expanding pediatric protocols during the COVID-19 pandemic. The survey will be released in the near future. She asked the medical directors to work with their state directors in answering the survey.

COVID-19 Update from States

Peter Taillac said the focus is turning to the role of EMS role in vaccination administration in Utah. Michael Kaufmann said that, in Indiana, they are actively working with the Department of Health on a vaccination program by EMS. Carol Cunningham said that, in Ohio, they have allowed vaccinations by EMS in a declared emergency. Jason Kegg asked about minimum age requirements for vaccinations. Michael Kaufmann said they are starting at age 6 and above because the American Academy of Pediatrics wants younger children to obtain their vaccines at their health care homes. Tripp Winslow said community paramedics in one North Carolina community are being paid by public health to perform vaccinations, contact tracing, and more.

Project and Committee Updates – Various Members

Prehospital Airway Management Systematic Review – Dr. Michael Levy has not been contacted about this project.

Pain Management EBG Project (awarded 5/13/20) – Dr. George Lindbeck said the project is underway and the Technical Expert Panel will be meeting this week.

NEMSAC Update – Dr. Peter Taillac reported that NEMSAC met virtually last week. NHTSA will be issuing a summary of the meeting shortly. All NEMSAC members' terms were extended by a year due to COVID-19.

Code of Ethics for EMS Medical Directors – Dr. Ken Williams was unable to attend the meeting today but asked Mary to inform the group that the Code of Ethics has recently been published by PEC.

NAEMSP Equipment for Ground Ambulances Revision – Dr. Ken Williams was not on the call.

NASEMSO National Model EMS Clinical Guidelines – Dr. Carol Cunningham said that NHTSA recently informed NASEMSO that they will be funding version 3 of the Model EMS Clinical Guidelines.

Adjourn – There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:24 PM.

Next Meeting - November 2

The meeting record was respectfully prepared by NASEMSO Program Manager Mary Hedges and edited by MDC Secretary Carol Cunningham.