



NASEMSO Medical Directors Council

July 6, 2020, 1:00 PM EDT

Meeting Record

Attending – George Lindbeck (Chair), Joe Holley (TN), Michael Kaufmann (IN), Rich Kamin (CT), Peter Taillac (UT), M Riccardo Colella (WI), Gail Bradley (AZ), Tim Chizmar (MD), Jason Kegg (IL), Tripp Winslow (NC), Joey Scollan (NH), Dan Wolfson (VT), Kate Zimmerman (ME), Doug Kupas (PA), Carol Cunningham (OH), Jeff Beckman (CO), Gam Wijetunge (NHTSA), Jon Krohmer (NHTSA), Dave Bryson (NHTSA), Dia Gainor (NASEMSO), Mary Hedges (NASEMSO)

Call to Order, Welcome, Self-Introductions – Dr. George Lindbeck called the meeting to order at 1:07 PM EDT.

Approval of May 4th Meeting Record (attached) – The May 4th meeting minutes were approved as submitted.

Discussion with NHTSA: EMS Vaccination, Specimen Collection, and other Countermeasures – Gam Wijetunge introduced himself as a member of the NHTSA Office of EMS staff for 19 years. He said Dr. Krohmer has been co-leading the FEMA Health Systems Resiliency Task Force EMS/Prehospital Team. The staff at NHTSA Office of EMS has been very involved with the COVID-19 pandemic. Dr. Krohmer expressed interest in what EMS is presently doing in the various states regarding COVID specimen collection and vaccine administration. When a COVID vaccine is available or when the seasonal flu begins, EMS will need to assist public health with vaccinations.

Tripp Winslow said EMS has been doing COVID specimen collection in the jails in North Carolina. He said that they can perform procedures as determined by their medical director. Doug Kupas said Pennsylvania has modified its scope of practice as a result of COVID to ensure they can collect samples. Carol said Ohio is preparing for EMS to administer vaccines; however, the EMS scope of practice is limited to the collection of blood only, and the use of nasal swabs is currently not included in their EMS education curriculum. She added there have been a couple of lawsuits due to false negatives, and the plaintiffs are blaming the person who acquired the nasal sample. Riccardo Colella said that, in Wisconsin, all the emergency declarations have been rescinded so he does not believe they will be able to perform these functions.

EMS Provider Roles during COVID-19 Survey – Mary reviewed the results of this survey so far. The survey was sent to the Medical Directors Council members. If the medical director did not respond, she sent the survey to the state director for completion. There are 36 responses to date. Dr. George Lindbeck created this survey and Dr. Krohmer is interested in results for the prehospital task force. Mary will send him the results to date.

Time-Sensitive Care Coalition White Paper (attached) – Dr. Michael Levy was not on the call to report. Doug Kupas reported that the NAEMSP Board recently decided to withdraw its support of this white paper. Their concern was that it does not recognize EMS or medical directors as integral partners in a time-sensitive care system (it was written by a cardiologist). Dia said that Dr. Levy reported NAEMSP's decision to her and she is bringing it to the NASEMSO Executive Committee on Friday. Carol Cunningham agreed with NAEMSP's reasoning and does not believe NASEMSO should support it, but noted that NASEMSO should offer its own rationale. Kate Zimmerman said she reviewed it as part of the Trauma Managers Council and noted that they also had significant concerns about the document. Doug urged a quick response because it is going to print soon. It appears the authors are not accepting further edits.

Motion: Carol Cunningham moved that the MDC recommend that NASEMSO withdraw its support of the white paper. Jason Kegg seconded the motion. Motion passed without objection.

Interfacility Transport Position Paper (attached) – Dr. George Lindbeck thanked those who had commented on the draft. He will review the comments and revise. Members discussed unfortunate situations where interfacility transports were not appropriately staffed for the level of care needed by the patient.

Research Project: State-level EMS protocol changes enacted during COVID-19 Pandemic – Rachael Alter was not able to join the call.

Project and Committee Updates – Various Members

Prehospital Airway Management Systematic Review – Dr. Michael Levy was not on the call.

Pain Management EBG Project (awarded 5/13/20) – Dr. George Lindbeck shared that NASEMSO was awarded the project. He is the PI and co-investigators are Sabina Braithwaite (ACEP) and Harry Sibold (NAEMSP). Mary Hedges added that the members of the Technical Expert Panel will be named soon and the final work plan will be submitted to NHTSA this week. The EBG will be completed in May of 2021.

NEMSAC Update – Dr. Peter Taillac said that the NEMSAC has not met during the COVID-19 pandemic but will be meeting virtually in August.

Code of Ethics for EMS Medical Directors – Dr. Ken Williams was not on the call, but Dr. Lindbeck said Ken is submitting the document to PEC for publication.

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

Defining Ideal Pediatric Trauma System (Childress Grant) – Dr. Joey Scollan reported that she has not heard anything on this project since January. Mary assured her that most projects have been impacted by the COVID pandemic and that she should hear from them when activity resumes.

National Pediatric Readiness Project (NPRP) – Dr. Joey Scollan said she had not heard anything on this project either.

NASEMSO National Model EMS Clinical Guidelines – Drs. Carol Cunningham and Richard Kamin reported they are waiting for funding to begin version 3 of the Model Guidelines. Mary said NHTSA notified NASEMSO last week that they were funding the EMS workforce project as the first project in the umbrella agreement. Dia explained that it is possible that NHTSA could roll out a second project at any time but the time frame is unknown. Carol asked about other funding sources. Dia said that NASEMSO may be able to get the attention of the CDC and ASPR for potential funding although we have not been able to secure funding for NASEMSO in the past.

Next Meeting: August 24, 2020 (rescheduled from 1st Monday of September due to conflict with Labor Day). Mary asked if members would like to hold a 2-hour meeting in August in place of the Annual Meeting. It was decided to stay with the one-hour format.

Adjourn – The meeting adjourned at 2:14 PM EDT.

The meeting minutes were respectfully submitted by NASEMSO Program Manager Mary Hedges with editing assistance from MDC Secretary Carol Cunningham.