



NASEMSO Medical Directors Council

March 4, 2024, 1:00 PM ET

Meeting Record

Attending – Richard Kamin (CT), Jerilyn Jones (AR), Joe Holley (TN), Joey Scollan (NH), Lynn Wittwer (WA), Dan Wolfson (VT), Mike Levy (AK), Gail Bradley (AZ), Ken Williams (RI), Jim Walery (SD), Angus Jameson (FL), Azeem Ahmed (IA), Dan Bledsoe (PA), Carol Cunningham (OH), Curtis Sandy (ID), James “Tripp” Winslow (NC), Hernando Garzon (CA), Jeff Beckman (CO), Walt Lubbers (KY), Rob Rosenbaum (DE), Tim Chizmar (MD), Kevin Hodges (WA)

Guests from the VA: Sabina Braithwaite, Doug Villard, Sharon Henderson, Josh Geiger, Kevin Patel

Federal Partners: Gam Wijetunge (NHTSA), Jeremy Kinsman (NHTSA)

NASEMSO Staff: Mary Hedges, Alex Tyeryar, Randall Eimerman

Call to Order, Welcome, Self-Introductions – Dr. Richard Kamin, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:01 PM.

Approval of January 10th Meeting Record (attached) – The January 10 meeting minutes were approved as submitted.

NASEMSO Update – Andy Gienapp and Dia Gainor were not available to report.

NHTSA Office of EMS Update – Gam Wijetunge, Director, said they were recently looking at the FARS data on roadway fatalities and noted that of the approximate 28,000 fatalities in 2022, roughly ¼ required extrication from their vehicles. FARS defines extrication as requiring equipment to remove the individual from the vehicle. He was interested if the medical directors have any reactions or thoughts about this data. There was comment in regard to how extrication was defined for the sake of this discussion and Mike Levy noted that extrication could be something as simple as popping off a door to removing a roof. Gam noted that FARS does not differentiate on this issue. Others inquired about linking data form other data sets. Gam and Jeremy Kinsman said that police crash reports may not be very reliable for reporting serious injury since law enforcement personnel are making that determination. Gam noted that DOT recently released a grant opportunity to encourage linkage between trauma, NEMSIS and police crash reports. See [nhtsa-announces-350-million-states-upgrade-data-collection-systems](#).

Gam asked members to please continue to consider the issue and feel free to ask questions and make suggestions on how to better clarify/address how extrication may be impacting MVC survival.

Retiring Member/New Member (Washington) - Dr. Lynn Wittwer announced that he retired on December 31st from medical practice which has been exclusively EMS for the last 15 years. He is fast approaching 82 and felt it was time. He noted that the State of Washington does not have an official state medical director but appoints one of the physicians from their medical directors’ group to serve as the representative to the NASEMSO Medical Directors Council. He introduced Dr. Kevin Hodges whom he has known since he was a paramedic. Dr. Kamin recognized Dr. Wittwer for his participation and his willingness to provide perspective/opinion and take feedback. Dr. Hodges said that Dr. Wittwer has long been a mentor to him. He is happy to become a part of this group.

Standardizing Emergency Ambulance Services across the Veterans Administration Enterprise – Dr. Doug Villard has been with the Veterans Administration (VA) for 3 years and lives in Chapel Hill, NC. A few years ago they noted there was a difference between interfacility transfer (IFT) and emergency response on campus. They have 30 sites that have emergency ambulance service, primarily fire based. They are working on protocols, national

standards of practice, electronic health records and more. Dr. Sabina Braithwaite suggested communicating with NASEMSO for transparency, collaboration and open lines of communication. She thanked Rich and Mary for making this conversation possible. Dr. Villard said they intend to move toward requiring all EMS personnel to be registered by the National Registry of EMTs. Dr. Braithwaite added that they will likely also need to be licensed by their respective state agency. Although they expect to be integrated into disaster response, they do not expect to be doing 9-1-1 service from VA campuses.

Stroke Destinations for EMS Research Study – Dr. Azeem Ahmed (IA) said his EMS fellow has interviewed about 20 state EMS medical directors and he thanked everyone for their time. He will contact others who have not yet been interviewed and intends to share the results with the group.

Trauma Volume Change with 2019 Field Triage Guidelines – Dr. Riccardo Colella was not available. This will remain on the agenda for the annual meeting.

Planning for Annual Meeting – Mary asked the group if they were open to hearing a short presentation from Sheree Murphy of the National EMS Quality Alliance on performance measures, noting that Dr. Jameson might be involved since Florida is active in developing performance measures. It was agreed to have this presentation at the MDC meeting.

Other suggestions for agenda items for the Pittsburgh MDC meeting on May 14-15 will be solicited via the listserv.

Project and Committee Updates – Various Members

- NEMSIS Defined List Committee – Dr. Gail Bradley shared that the committee is discussing definitions, i.e., definition of seizure. There are about 7 on the committee and they will be making their recommendations to NEMSIS.
- CARES Board – Dr. Michael Levy has no new information since his report at the January meeting.
- Anaphylaxis Definition and Diagnostic Criteria – Drs. Tim Chizmar and Tripp Winslow they have not heard anything yet regarding this project.
- Prehospital Airway Management Evidence-Based Guideline Project – Dr. Matthew Sholl was not available to report. The EBG has been published, Dr. Kamin noted. Mary commented that they are now developing the performance measures (via NEMSQA) and educational material.

Other - Dr. Jeff Beckman expressed heartfelt thanks to everyone for their support and friendship. He is stepping down as medical director for Colorado after 8 years and will miss this meeting more than any other in his role as medical director. Colorado is in the process of hiring his replacement. Dr. Kamin thanked Dr. Beckman for his involvement.

Adjourn – The meeting adjourned at 2:06 PM ET.

Next Meeting – May 14 -15, during the NASEMSO Annual Meeting

REGISTER:

- **May 12-16, [NASEMSO Annual Meeting, Pittsburgh, PA](#)**

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