

NASEMSO Board of Directors
October 12, 2023, 2:00 PM EDT

Meeting Record



Present

Officers

President-Elect: Jason Rhodes
Secretary: Sam Hurley
Treasurer: Justin Romanello

Region Chairs

Great Lakes: Kraig Kinney
West: Todd McDowell
East: Ryan Greenberg
Western Plains: Tim Wilson
South: Jamie Gray

Council Chairs

Health & Medical Preparedness: Jay Taylor
Personnel Licensure: Brett Hart
Pediatric Emergency Care: Marc Minkler
Trauma Managers: Eileen Worden
Education: Terrie Godde
Data Managers: Jay Ostby
Medical Directors: Richard Kamin

Absent

President: Joe House
Immediate Past President: Alisa Williams

Other NASEMSO Members

Anna Sessa
Wendy Snodgrass
Amber Viitanen
Gail Bradley
Richard Rhodes
Wendy Snodgrass
Wendy O'Hare

Federal Partners

Gam Wijetunge

NASEMSO Staff

Dia Gainor
Rachael Alter
Beth Armstrong
Leslee Stein-Spencer
Adrienne Wilson
Alex Tyeryar

Call to Order / Roll Call

President Jason Rhodes called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM ET. A quorum was present.

Secretary's Report

Jason Rhodes stated that the Executive Committee report and the September 2023 Board meeting minutes were sent to the Board, along with the agenda, prior to the Board meeting.

ACTION: Kraig Kinney moved, and Terrie Godde seconded to approve the August 2023 minutes as distributed. The motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

As of September 30, 2023, the total income is \$438,827. The total expenses are \$329,281, versus a twelve-month budget of \$1,513,366. The net income from operations is \$119,812. The total net excess is \$109,546 (including other income). The net assets are \$945,161.

Program Committee

Justin Romanello stated that the Program Committee met on October 10th. They continued to plan a Freedom House related event. They have reached out to six members of Freedom House and five of those members have confirmed that they will attend the event. There are two members who do not live in the area, and who will need to travel to Pittsburgh. The plan is to look at sponsorship money to pay for their travel and hotel costs. The Committee is also looking at other opportunities other than the event, to recognize the Freedom House members. They will ask Kevin Hazzard to attend the event and to do a book signing.

Justin reported that it is not economically feasible to pursue a dinner cruise for the President's reception. The reception will likely stay at the hotel. Biospatial will possibly hold their evening event at the zoo on another day.

The Program Committee continues to talk about diversity and how they can use this theme throughout the event to encourage participation and collaboration among those who may normally not be able to attend. The Committee is continuing to explore how they can adjust the schedule at a glance to allocate Councils two days to meet, while also continuing to hold Committee meetings.

President's Report and Federal Partners Welcome

NHTSA OEMS

Gam Wijetunge reported that the NHTSA OEMS office completed a post-crash care infographic a few weeks ago. The infographic can be found on [ems.gov](https://www.ems.gov) at the following

link: https://www.ems.gov/assets/Post-Crash-Infographic_composite_R18_FINAL.pdf. They developed this tool to help facilitate conversations particularly between highway safety offices and state EMS directors.

Gam stated that before the end of the calendar year states' publicly viewable grant applications to NHTSA will be posted online. The state offices of highway safety apply to NHTSA for Section 402 and 405 State Highway Safety grants. NHTSA will take a close look at those numbers to see what progress they have made in the areas of EMS and 911 funding through those programs. The California Office of Traffic Safety put out a press release last week announcing their awards to over 400 subgrantees, with approximately \$3.6 million dollars in EMS related awards. There are roughly 30 grantees to localities totaling \$1.9 million. There is also a major award of \$1.7 million to Los Angeles County that supports trauma training, and a data linkage project that is being headed up by University of California, Los Angeles. Gam states that he believes this is a good forebearer of what will be seen later this year, as the other grants are announced. He added that this is the result of conversations and relationship building, and State EMS Officials becoming involved in the highway safety planning process.

Gam reported they anticipate that before the end of the calendar year, there will be a Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) grant award announced by the Federal Highway Administration. Their plan, internally, is to do a webinar, sometime in early 2024, featuring SS4A and 402/405 grantees for the EMS community. The purpose of the webinar is for the rest of the community to learn from their success.

Gam stated that there is an ongoing meeting of the traumatic brain injury workshop hosted by National Academy of Sciences on October 12, and October 13. They met with staff from the office of the Assistant Secretary for Health last week and learned that Traumatic brain injury will be a major area of focus for them.

Gam announced that the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) will have their annual meeting coming up on December 14th and 15th. The EMS Data Summit 2.0 is being co-located with that meeting on the 15th. The following link allows access to the ONC meeting registration: <https://www.oncannualmeeting.com/> (registration for the EMS Data Summit is limited, but they will provide remote access).

Gam's final announcement was that FICEMS, the Federal Interagency Committee on EMS, recently approved a statement on diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility that will likely go out to the community next week.

Sam Hurley asked Gam to share his insight regarding NHTSA OEM's office interactions or collaborations with the US Fire Administration (USFA). Gam stated that they have a great working relationship with the USFA, and that he talks with Rick Patrick, the director of National Fire and EMS programs, on an almost daily basis. They will continue

to focus on a close working relationship with them and with coordinating their work through the Federal Interagency Committee on EMS as much as possible. They have had conversations on National Emergency Response Information System (NERIS) and NEMSIS coordination, but those conversations are not in the advanced stage because the transition from National Fire Incident Reporting System to NERIS will be a large undertaking.

HRSA EMSC

No report

Executive Director's Report

Current Projects

EMS for Children Innovation & Improvement Center Update

Rachael stated that the EMSC Program is up for reauthorization in 2024. The EIIC, in partnership with the EMSC Data Center, are feverishly working on various fact sheets to assist in their advocacy efforts to not only get reauthorized, but also to increase the funding amount for the EMSC Program.

Workforce—CAP 1 (NHTSA OEMS)

Dia Gainor stated that the pilot states have given staff incredible insights into the challenges to do even the most rudimentary calculations related to basic workforce quantification methods. This includes other advanced ones, such as turnover. That work continues through March of 2024

Model Public Health Emergency Guidelines—CAP 4 (NHTSA OEMS)

Dia Gainor stated that this work has evolved into a project of significance. An Emergency Support Function dedicated to EMS was called for from a floor resolution from the state EMS directors in Charleston, and the construct of the document is modeled after the framework of an Emergency Support Function. This has been well received by the technical expert panel, apart from one organization. Staff is advancing it and the implementation guidelines. Project efforts will focus on the pilot state's experience utilizing the document.

Airway EBG (NHTSA OEMS)

Dia Gainor reported that the manuscript is in the hands of the Co-principal investigators and the Technical Experts Panel (TEP) for reconciliation of reviewer comments and considerations for revisions. Resubmission will occur later this month. The educational materials were submitted recently to the NHTSA Office of EMS for review. Staff are working very hard to make sure that those materials, namely a continuing education module, are available free of charge through a distance education distribution site.

Child Restraint Test Methods—CAP 5 (NHTSA OEMS)

Rachael Alter stated that they had in-person meetings in New Orleans at EMS World, for three work groups for four hours each. The workgroups examined definitions, and they came to a consensus, for the most part, on all the definitions within the test methods. Each group had made a little bit of progress into the actual meat of the document. The workgroups are making great progress, and they are on track to be finished in June of next year. They will continue working on ensuring Phase 2 funding is acquired so the project won't lose momentum when Phase 1 is complete.

Community Opioids/ “Familiar Faces” Playbook (TASC)

Dia Gainor reported the work for the treatment alternatives for safe communities is concluding. This is the Familiar Faces work that was specific to the National Association of Counties seeking EMS specific insights about how EMS data could help other disciplines at a local level. The focus was on data, treatment alternatives and destination determinations.

The Community Opioids work is expected to be renewed for an additional year. NASEMSO staff are assisting primarily with technical assistance when communities seek guidance from the Center for Health and Justice to stand up opioid specific intervention programs. These are co-responder programs, or medication assisted treatment, or Medications for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD) programs. They help connect these programs with other successful programs, which may be in other corners of the country. They also make sure that they are well connected with their state EMS office on both the policy front, and the data front.

Georgia Rural Public Health Workforce Technical Assistance

Dia Gainor reported that last month, a troubling consideration of recruiting from the EMS population to increase other healthcare populations was being promoted by at least one grantee. This project continues on an on demand basis. This project has just been renewed for an additional year.

Pending Projects

National Governors Association ‘Leveraging EMS in Opioid Overdoses’ (buprenorphine initiation et al.)—SOW Offered

Dia Gainor reported that staff was contacted by the National Governors Association, who are zeroing in on how EMS personnel and agencies can be leveraged in opioid overdose response scenarios and state policy considerations. They have volunteered to provide a scope of work to staff who are awaiting responses on interaction about that, and staff bring it forward to either the Board or, if necessary, the EC based on deadlines they give staff for turning that around. It is an ambitious timeline of about nine months of work.

Potential Projects

Consulting firm based in Northern Virginia

Dia Gainor reported that staff were contacted by a consulting firm based in Northern Virginia that is considering a request for proposals from FEMA specific to chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear incidents and the development of more robust real time information that might be available. This might include an app to emergency response personnel for those types of scenarios. Staff will keep the Board updated on any further information that might emerge.

New Umbrella Agreement

Staff will keep the Board updated on any further information that might emerge.

Action Items

Organization Invitation- Healthcare Coalition for Firearm Injury Prevention (HCFIP)

Discussion: Dia Gainor stated that this is an organizational invitation for the Healthcare Coalition for Firearm Injury Prevention (HCFIP). There are some historical references at the beginning of the document to prior summits that were held on this subject. There is no evidence that NASEMSO has been invited to or involved in those prior efforts. This is an opportunity for NASEMSO to be included and involved in this coalition. There are multiple levels of involvement in coalition membership, and NASEMSO is eligible for either an active engagement mode or a supportive engagement mode. They have asked that NASEMSO state our interest by October 13th, and if we are interested, the desired level of engagement as coalition partners. This is the preliminary formation stage of this coalition and there is no adopted position or premise that was included in any of the materials, except for the interest and focus on firearm injury prevention.

The Board discussed the need to be politically sensitive about making this decision. Board members were interested in knowing if associations such as the National Association of EMS Physicians had received the invite, and if they were planning to join. Dia Gainor reported that she could think of a few occasions where the Board or Executive Committee chose to decline without disrespect, based on the need for political sensitivity, since the Board is comprised of state government officials.

ACTION: Kraig Kinney moved, and Jamie Gray seconded that based on the sensitive issue, NASEMSO will politely decline the organization Invitation from the Healthcare Coalition for Firearm Injury Prevention. Discussion on the motion continued, to include discussion on tabling the motion in order to learn more about the Coalition, including which organizations would take part. The question being called, a roll call vote was taken. The motion carried with nine ayes and five nays.

National Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council DRAFT Advisory and Recommendations: “Designation of Graduate-Prepared Paramedics as Federally Recognized Practitioners” -- Board brainstorming about key points that should be included in a NASEMSO Comment Letter

Discussion: Justin Romanello explained that the National Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council created a draft advisory recommending the creation of a paramedic practitioner level of provider that is equivalent, or closely equivalent to the scope of a nurse practitioner or a physician’s assistant. It would provide direction to various government entities that would be responsible for creating that pathway. NEMSAC is trying to encourage a higher level of input for EMS to do more. The advisory provides the framework, and it will still need to go through other processes. November 15th and 16th are the dates for the next NEMSAC meeting, in which the committee could potentially vote to move to the interim NEMSAC advisory stage. Dia Gainor added that NEMSAC advisories are directed towards FICEMS, meaning the federal agencies with the responsibility or authority in the areas of these recommendations, as well as to the Secretary of the US Department of Transportation.

NEMSAC received a joint letter in opposition to the advisory from the International Association of Firefighters, International Association of Fire Chiefs, the American Ambulance Association, and the National Association EMTs. They asked NEMSAC to table the advisory, partly because they felt that creating this pathway could potentially direct financial support away from recruitment and retention issue and reimbursement issues. They also expressed that EMS is already losing providers who pursue licensure as nurse practitioners and Physician Assistants and that this is would only aggravate the situation.

Board members expressed the desire to have a pathway for advancement, but also expressed concern that we could lose providers if this pathway is made available. Board members also raised the concern that there may not be positions for these advanced practice providers to fit into. Other Board members stated having a pathway for advancement could both potentially help with the recruitment of paramedics, as well as to encourage them to stay in the EMS field.

ACTION: Sam Hurley moved, and Terrie Godde seconded to ask staff to draft a letter of support for the National Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council DRAFT Advisory and recommendation that specifically cites the need for support of state EMS offices in creating some standardization and rules across states. Staff will present the letter at the November Board meeting.

ACTION: Jason Rhodes offered a friendly amendment to add, “will look for a model, legislation or model regulatory language.” Sam Hurley accepted the friendly amendment. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

Creation of a line item in the NASEMSO budget for each NASEMSO region in order to place excess funds/revenue from their in-person regional meetings to be held for future in-person meetings.

ACTION: Jamie Gray moved, and Sam Hurley seconded to add line items to the budget for each region for excess revenue after an in-person regional meeting, so that the next year's regional meeting would have starting funds.

Discussion

Justin Romanello requested to table the motion for a couple of meetings, stating that as treasurer, he has a meeting with Beth Armstrong in November to discuss the possibility of a pathway for regions to retain excess revenue from their meetings without having a discussion or creating a line item. Justin stated that this is already potentially something that is in place. Board members added that they would be interested in the possibility of also including a starting budget.

ACTION: Jamie Gray rescinded his motion.

ACTION: Justin will meet with Beth Armstrong in November to discuss a pathway for regions to retain excess revenue from their meetings. He will also talk with Beth about the Board's interest in having a starting budget.

Discussion Items

Discussion on bylaws regarding removal of Council/Committee officer

Discussion: Marc Minkler stated that the PEC council recently ran into a challenge reaching an officer and it was brought to their attention that there is nothing in NASEMSO's bylaws that addresses the removal of a Council officer. Marc reported that, after a discussion, he, Rachel Alter and Joe House concluded that the absence of a Bylaw put them in a difficult position of what to do when either a member was silent or inactive. Sam Hurely inquired about the standing of the Bylaws committee, and Dia Gainor stated that the Bylaws committee is currently standing but is formed annually. Dia added the absence of a bylaw that addresses the removal of a Council officer could be their first agenda item. Brett Hart added that he would like for the Bylaw Committee to also consider a Committee and Council Playbook specific to certain bylaws, such as elections.

ACTION: Sam Hurley moved, and Jamie Gray seconded that the Bylaws Committee be assembled, and this topic be referred to the Bylaws Committee for drafting bylaws regarding the removal of a council or committee officer.

ACTION: Brett Hart added the friendly amendment that the Bylaws Committee consider a Committee and Council Playbook that is specific to certain bylaws. The motion, with the friendly amendment, passed unanimously.

National Prehospital Pediatric Readiness Project Assessment—EMS agency definition and data update

Discussion: Joe House was not available to discuss this discussion item.

ACTION: Marc Minkler moved, and Terrie Godde seconded to table this discussion item for the next meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:11 PM ET.

Meeting record respectfully submitted by Member Relations Coordinator, Adrienne Wilson.