

**NASEMSO Board of Directors
November 9, 2023, 2:00 PM EDT**



Meeting Record

Present

Officers

President: Joe House
Immediate Past President: Alisa Williams
President-Elect: Jason Rhodes
Treasurer: Justin Romanello

Region Chairs

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

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

Secretary: Sam Hurley
South: Jamie Gray

Other NASEMSO Members

Anna Sessa
Emily Bergquist
Candace Gardner
Wendy Snodgrass
Amber Viitanen
Dana Selover
Gail Bradley
Richard Rhodes
Wendy Snodgrass
Wendy O'Hare

Federal Partners

Gam Wijetunge
Jocelyn Hulbert
Rick Patrick

NASEMSO Staff

Dia Gainor
Andy Gienapp
Rachael Alter
Kelli Perrotti
Randall Eimerman
Mary Hedges
Adrienne Wilson

Call to Order / Roll Call

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

Secretary's Report

Joe House stated the Executive Committee report, and the October 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 October 2023 minutes as distributed. The motion carried with one abstention from Joe House.

Treasurer's Report

As of October 31, 2023, the total income is \$537,028. The total expenses are \$441,662 versus a twelve-month budget of \$1,513, 366. The net income of operations is \$116,091. The total net excess is \$95,367. The net assets are \$838,523.

Program Committee

Justin Romanello stated the Program Committee met at their new time and date. There were fourteen people in attendance. Justin reported that the committee came up with a plan to have Councils meet two full days, and to continue to hold the committee meetings. He added that NHTSA has agreed to pay for the Freedom House members' travel to the annual meeting.

President's Report and Federal Partners Welcome

Joe House thanked the United States Fire Administration (USFA) for recently meeting in person with NASEMSO's staff and Executive Committee on two occasions. Joe commented that they had great and productive meetings.

Joe reported he is hearing that the regional meetings were successful. He thanked all those involved for coordinating the fall regional meetings. Joe asked the Region Chairs and Vice Chairs to begin working toward identifying a location for each of their fall regional meetings through 2026. This will give the association the ability to assist with planning and ensure that the meetings occur as scheduled.

Joe stated staff will send the Region Chairs and Vice Chairs a brief overview of the roles and responsibilities of Highway Incident and Transportation Systems (HITS) Committee. He would like the Chairs to send him one to two names for consideration as Chair of the Committee.

Joe expressed he is excited about the upcoming Board retreat in December. He is looking forward to setting some very clear expectations and goals for each Council and Region. Joe stated he will ask each Chair for one or more project ideas that they feel they can finalize before the annual meeting in May.

NHTSA OEMS

Gam Wijetunge reported two of the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) grant program awards were announced. The awards and planning grants can be viewed [here](#). Gam added there will be a round or two of awards announced before the end of the calendar year and then the notice of funding opportunity for year three of this grant program will be posted in February of 2024. Gam asked Board members to reach out to their local EMS agencies to encourage them to contact those grant awardees because the inclusion of post-crash care is critical as part of the Safe Systems Approach. Gam also asked them to do this for new awards.

Gam stated during the January/February time frame NHTSA is planning to do a webinar through [ems.gov](https://www.ems.gov). In the webinar they will discuss both the SS4A grant program, as well as the NHTSA State Highway Safety grant program. They will be inviting some grantees to discuss lessons learned and successes that they can share with the community.

Gam reported over the past year and a half now, with these multiple grant mechanisms going out, there are the State Highway Safety Grants that have been submitted to NHTSA, as well as the new Triennial Highway Safety Plans required by law. These are currently being uploaded to the web. Gam expects that those will be completed before the end of the year, and he hopes to be able to share those lessons learned on a webinar in the New Year.

Gam stated the 2022 NEMSIS Public Release Research Dataset has been released. They are working with NEMSIS TAC to see what additional data capture they can do regarding violence against providers, ambulance crashes, and community paramedicine/mobile integrated healthcare.

Gam reported they are working with USFA on data issues, including developing computer-aided dispatch (CAD), the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS), and the National Emergency Medical Services Information System (NEMSIS) integration.

Gam stated that a free EMS Data Summit 2.0 meeting will take place in Washington, DC on December 15th. It is co-located with the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology meeting. <https://www.oncannualmeeting.com/>

Gam reported that the analysis of ground ambulance crash data Report 2012 to 2018 that was released by NHTSA, and summarizes their special crash investigations of ambulance crashes, can be viewed online [here](#). Gam added that a message that needs to be emphasized is that it is shown that seat belt use by clinicians and patients in the patient compartment is the key step in preventing fatalities in a high-speed ambulance crash.

Gam stated the Federal Interagency Committee on EMS (FICEMS) recently released a statement on diversity, equity inclusion and accessibility in EMS and is posted [here](#). FICEMS will meet next on December 6th (public meeting to be broadcasted virtually). Several Committee updates will take place, as well as presentations from the Department of Homeland Security's Urban Security Technology Lab, and the National Registry of EMTs.

Gam reported NEMSAC will meet the week of the November 13th. There are two new appointees to NEMSAC—Christine Condron (fire-based EMS) and Mike Thomas (private EMS). NEMSAC will be looking at a number of recommendations. The 2023 Biannual State of EMS Funding Advisory will be finalized. There are five advisories that are still in draft form. One draft advisory of note is the designation of graduate prepared paramedics as federally recognized practitioners.

Gam stated the EMS Education Agenda 2050 project will get underway in 2024. A request for information should be posted soon in the Federal Register; the comment period will close March 31, 2024.

Board members asked Gam to share what he has heard from others regarding the graduate prepared paramedics as federally recognized practitioners. They asked if he knew if Medicaid will recognize paramedics for reimbursement. Gam stated process wise they are waiting to see what NEMSAC deliberates and then the recommendations that they deliver back to them. He added that he thinks as EMS Education Agenda 2050 gets underway, he anticipates that they will take a similar approach as to what they did with EMS Agenda 2050—which is to hold regional meetings around the country. This will give people an opportunity to weigh in on where they think the future of the EMS education system needs to be moving forward. Gam said that he anticipates that the NEMSAC final advisory will be part of that mix and part of that ongoing discussion.

HRSA EMSC

Jocelyn Hulbert reported EMSC is very involved right now in preparing all of their 58 state partnership grantees for the upcoming Prehospital Pediatric Readiness Program (PPRP) Assessment that will roll out in May. Jocelyn added they are working closely right now with both the EIIC and the Data Center to get every piece ready to roll that out.

FEMA US Fire Administration

Rick Patrick reported he appreciated meeting with NASEMSO in-person, along with Dr. Lori Moore-Merrell, Dave Millstein, and other non-governmental organizations (NGOs). An outcome of that meeting is that they will hold monthly meetings with NASEMSO and other NGOs, to help them stay in tune with what the Fire Administration is doing dynamically and into the future. They will also use this as an opportunity to answer questions and address issues and concerns going forward.

Rick attended the East Region meeting and reported a lot of interest centered around NEMSIS and the National Emergency Response Information Systems (NERIS). NERIS is the new fire reporting system that they are developing to replace the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS). There were questions on what that means for EMS and integration across the board. Rick shared that it would ease the burden on the response community for the data entered because they are going to pull information from NEMSIS through Application Programming Interfaces (APIs). This will allow them to paint better story telling pictures with the analytics that are going to be done as this progresses. Rick added they are getting ready to beta test NERIS in the next couple of months. They plan to shift all fire departments to it by the end of next year, and NFIRS will sunset by the end of 2024/early 2025.

Rick reported they hired David Millstein as the new EMS Branch Chief. David was previously working with NFIRS. He is bringing a lot of data and analytics knowledge along with his EMS background to help lead the new branch. They now have four full-time personnel.

Rick shared that the US Fire administrator started holding an annual summit on fire prevention and control under their statutory responsibilities. EMS has been added to the agenda this year. They had the second annual meeting in Emmitsburg last month. They are seeking interested parties who would like to serve on the workgroup as it develops out its' mission focus on an overarching goal as they go forward. Rick requested that anyone who might be interested should send their information to him through Joe.

Rick stated FEMA has issued comments for EMS resource typing. The information is live right now, [here](#) and is open for public input.

Lastly, Rick reported they released their most popular document on Capitol Hill. It is called Alternative Funding for EMS and Fire Services and can be found [here](#). This document details how to get additional funding in a variety of different areas.

Executive Director's Report

Current Projects

EMS for Children Innovation & Improvement Center (Yale)

Rachael Alter reported they are working on state EMSC funding fact sheets to provide to be used to support the 2024 reauthorization of the EMSC program.

This week they held the PPRP Steering Committee meeting. It was mostly full of updates on committee work. Rachael shared she is excited to announce that the NEMSIS Pediatric Dashboard project has moved along quickly. They are on-time to release the dashboards early next year. Rachael added that this is a very exciting part of the project

that she thinks will have utility in all of the states. The PPRP Assessment field test launches in January with New Jersey, Northern Mariana Islands, and North Carolina.

Workforce—CAP 1 (NHTSA OEMS)

Andy Gienapp reported they have realized that a massive effort is needed that is beyond the scope of this project. Andy added that he hopes to get some conversations going about the project at the Board retreat in December. This project will wrap up in March.

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

Andy stated they are starting to get a handle on what the project should look like and plans to use the Board retreat as an opportunity to get the Board's thoughts on the project. This project will end in September of 2024.

Airway EBG (NHTSA OEMS)

Andy reported that the manuscript was accepted for publication by Prehospital Emergency Care, and he will let the Board know what the publication date will be. He acknowledged the tremendous amount of work Drs Matt Sholl and Jeff Jarvis put forth to get the manuscript publication ready. Andy added the airway performance measures can be found on the [nemsq.org website](https://nemsq.org). Comments on the performance measures are accepted until December 1st. Collaboration with Prodigy EMS is underway to develop a webinar around the Airway EBG. This project wraps up in February.

Child Restraint Test Methods—CAP 5 (NHTSA OEMS)

Rachael Alter stated they are on task with this project. Workgroups continue to meet monthly for 2 hours each.

Community Opioids/ "Familiar Faces" Playbook (TASC)

Dia Gainor reported they are on the cusp between the end of a year's worth of work for the treatment alternatives for safe communities, which is under the Center for Health and Justice. They are waiting for information about how NASEMSO's work might continue for them. Mary added that their article entitled, [Coordinated Opioid Recovery Begins with Emergency Medical Services in Florida](#), was published in the COSSUP newsletter in October. It talks about how opioid treatment begins with EMS in Florida.

Georgia Rural Public Health Workforce Technical Assistance

Dia reported this continues to include periodic inquiries that are funneled to Dia and Andy based on specific grantee questions about EMTs and paramedics and how they can be utilized. Dia added that this is an ongoing workload, and they tend to work with the state EMS director to make sure they have situational awareness when it has implications that rise to that level.

Pending Projects

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

Dia reported the National Governors Association continues to ask questions related to potential utilization of EMS personnel in opioid overdose response. They are engaging NASEMSO because they are responding to a request for application in which they hope to partner with NASEMSO moving forward. This exemplifies, not only promising state practices, of which staff has supplied them with lists of several things, but also any expressions of potential interest from states who perhaps have not identified or implemented statewide allowances or programs aimed at this for more widespread uptake.

NACCHO

Dia Gainor stated that NACCHO has returned to ask NASEMSO for continued assistance to them in their falls prevention in the elderly. This is largely data-centric, where NASEMSO connects a local health district with their state EMS data coordinator to help the local health district understand how EMS data can assist them in identifying and refining their approaches to referrals, as well as understanding the scope of the problem and changes over time via EMS data.

Potential Projects

New Umbrella Agreement

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

Action Items

National Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council DRAFT Advisory and Recommendations: “Designation of Graduate-Prepared Paramedics as Federally Recognized Practitioners” -- NASEMSO Comment Letter

ACTION: Terrie Godde moved, and Ryan Greenberg seconded to move forward with the letter of support. Justin Romanello abstained. The motion passed.

Discussion: The Board members discussed possible steps once the advisory moves forward, including meeting with other national organizations to find common ground. The Joint National EMS Leadership Forum was suggested as a possible venue for such a discussion.

Request from US Senator Blumenthal (CT) for NASEMSO Endorsement of House Resolution on Slow Down Move Over Day

ACTION: Richard Kamin moved, and Justin Romanello seconded to endorse the House Resolution on Slow Down Move over day. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion: It was noted that the state of Connecticut was not asked to participate. However, the Board members agreed that it is a positive step forward that NASEMSO was asked for their endorsement.

Discussion Items

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

ACTION: Joe will meet with Dia to draft a communication to HRSA. He will attempt to meet with Theresa Morrison-Quinata and Jocelyn to discuss some of the concerns related to this and then incorporate the thoughts that came out of that.

Discussion: Dia stated the EMS agency definition and data update persists as a concern of NASEMSO and the Pediatric Emergency Care Council. Dia added there are evolving issues and questions about data that is in the possession of federal partners that may have originated in some cases from state EMS offices. She questioned what becomes of the data. This was provoked by a request of every state's EMS for Children program manager to submit data, and there are the questions at hand to understand this landscape of federal partners in the position of collecting this data. The question that staff was seeking was how many states submitted the data. Rachael shared that Jocelyn texted her before she had to leave the meeting that only two states/territories did not provide the data.

Additional concerns were shared by Marc Minkler and Ryan Greenberg, that included the feeling that the funding amount given is not equivalent to the onerous ask of a large state from HRSA, and the feelings of uneasiness regarding federal partners reaching out to their agencies using the state supplied contact information.

Joe House inquired if EMSC managers were being asked to update the contact list. Marc Minkler replied that there is an expectation that the contact lists will be maintained and updated.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:15 PM ET.

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