



NASEMSO Opioid & SUD Ad Hoc Committee

MEETING RECORD

February 3, 2022
2:00 – 3:30 PM EST

Attending – Tim Seplaki (NJ), Stephanie Busch (VT), Arnold Alier (SC), Mary Hedges (NASEMSO), Dia Gainor (NASEMSO), Andy Gienapp (NASEMSO), Hannah Degn (NASEMSO), Jennifer Robinson (NASEMSO), Joe Ferrell (Biospatial), Josh Walters (Biospatial), Maureen Ward (MT), Dr. Michael Levy (AK), Corey Collings (First Line Technology), Christina Galardi (CDC Foundation, SC), Dr. “Tripp” Winslow (NC), Rita Massiello (NJ DOH), Anna Thibodeaux (LA Ambulance Alliance), Anthony Pantaleo (MI), Duane Spencer (PA EMSC), Dr. Gail Bradley (AZ), Kelly Perrotti (WY), Dr. Ken Williams (RI), Paul Westlake (DE), Peter Geissert (OR), Ridgely Ficks (MA), Shane Bellard (LA Ambulance Alliance), Tim Hulings (CDC Foundation, DE), Tom Mitchell (NC), Lashunda Harden (NJ DOH), Dr. Peter Taillac (UT), Anna Civitarese (RI), Tom McGinnis (CA), Mike Hall (FL), Dr. Ted Delbridge (MD)

Call to Order & Welcome - Tim Seplaki, Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:03 PM EST.

Self - Introductions – Attendees introduced themselves, noting their state and/or affiliation.

Review and Approve January 6 Meeting Record (attached)- The January 6th meeting minutes were approved as submitted.

Co-Responder Consortium Update – Dia Gainor reported that the [National Co-Responder Consortium](#) continues to meet monthly as they work to create a technical assistance center. Benjamin Campbell from the Center for Health and Justice, Treatment Alternatives for Safe Communities has been assigned as staff to support the consortium.

Opioid & SUD Workshop, NASEMSO Meeting – Tim Seplaki requested volunteers to work with Mary Hedges and help plan the workshop at the NASEMSO Annual Meeting on June 22 in Charleston, SC. Volunteers included Dr. Tripp Winslow (NC), Josh Walters (Biospatial), and Kelli Perrotti (WY).

Mini-Presentation: Collaborative Work in South Carolina Agencies on the Opioid Crisis

(attached) – Arnold Alier presented an overview of South Carolina’s interagency efforts to address the opioid crisis. Their first interagency cooperation project in 2016 was the Law Enforcement Officer Narcan (LEON). In late 2017, the Governor created the Opioid Emergency Response Team (OERT). Initially there was distrust among the agencies, but the lawyers finally agreed to data sharing rules so that EMS data could be used to identify and analyze the problem. Biospatial’s work in analyzing and presenting the EMS data helped. Biospatial feeds all the naloxone administrations into ODMAP, and is able to show which are administered by law enforcement and EMS. Arnold recognized Christine Galardi, their data analyst, who is key in analyzing the data. South Carolina had seen a steady increase in opioid overdose fatalities between 2015 to 2019, but a 63% jump occurred from 2019 to 2020 during the pandemic. It has become a dual crisis with the pandemic and opioid overdoses closely intertwined.

During weekly OERT calls, surveillance data is shared which enables them to target areas of need. Legislators and other policy makers were not aware of the problem until they provided the data. The Community Opioid Paramedic Education or COPE program is a post-overdose outreach program in which naloxone-rescued individuals are assessed for wellness, given harm reduction information, offered a HIV and Hepatitis C test and are provided access to treatment. See [COPE](#). The Public Health and Preparedness Office will hire four additional community paramedics to participate in the COPE program in rural areas where resources are lacking. Funding is provided by a combination of state, SAMSHA, and other sources. One agency will be piloting a buprenorphine-in-the-field program.

Tim Seplaki shared that in New Jersey they also rely on their EMS data and partnering with Biospatial to understand the extent of the problem. Anthony Pantaleo commented that in Michigan they rely on partnering with Biospatial. He asked about using EMTs in community paramedic programs. Arnold said they are looking into that especially for doing the well checks.

Tim asked how the stigma of overdoses is being addressed. Arnold said that law enforcement had a problem stigmatizing users but that has been changing. Interestingly, EMS tends to still stigmatize the overdose patients. They have been using the data to change cynical attitudes toward repeat overdose patients.

Member Comments - Tim shared that New Jersey’s Five Minutes to Help Program is intended to arm New Jersey’s first responders with new knowledge and communication skills that can be applied on the scene, post-overdose reversal, to encourage patients to

seek help for their addiction and increase their awareness of available recovery resources in their communities. Classes are available to those interested:

Five Minutes to Help: Master (Instructor) Level Training WHEN: March 8th and 11th, 2022, from 9:30 am - 1:30 pm WHERE: Online SIGN

UP: <https://healthsurveys.nj.gov/NoviSurvey/TakeSurveyPage.aspx?s=e4f87db623004a58908d943061907656&tsid=c078b3027b5a49acbab09788006a7a02&c=en-US>

Five Minutes to Help: Provider Class (4 CEUs)

WHEN: March 25, 2022, from 9 am - 1 pm

WHERE: Online

Email: eva.Nelson@doh.nj.gov

Tim asked attendees about their biggest barriers to addressing the opioid crisis. Arnold responded that sharing the data was the greatest barrier in South Carolina. Once they settled on a data use agreement, they were able to obtain funding for the various programs because they were able to demonstrate the extent of the problem. Stephanie Busch shared that some of their recovery centers are sending out peer recovery coaches to overdose clients.

Carolina Roberts-Santana will present next month on what they are doing in Rhode Island to address the overdose epidemic. Anthony Pantaleo from Michigan offered to present in April.

Adjourn – The meeting adjourned at 3:12 PM EST.

Next Meeting – March 3, 2022

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