



# NASEMSO Opioid & SUD Ad Hoc Committee

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## MEETING RECORD

**October 6, 2022**  
**2:00 – 3:30 PM EST**

**Attending:** Tim Seplaki (NJ), Stephanie Busch (VT), Dr. Tripp Winslow (NC), Tom Mitchell (NC), Tom McGinnis (CA), Vicki Blanchard (NH), Tim Hulings (CDC-DE), Chris Montera (ESO), Doug Champlin (MA), Josh Walters (biospatial), Joe Ferrell (biospatial), Jason Rhodes (RI), Dr. Ken Williams (RI), Rita Masiello (NJ), Peter Geissert (OR), Maureen Ward (MT), Ridgely Ficks (MA). For NASEMSO: Mary Hedges, Adrienne Wilson, Lynn Dommel, Dia Gainor

**Call to Order & Welcome** – Tim Seplaki, Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:03 PM ET.

**Review and Approve September 1st Meeting Record (attached)** – The September meeting record was approved as submitted.

**White Paper: State EMS Offices Respond to Overdose Crisis** – Mary Hedges thanked those who submitted the completed templates describing their state’s activities related to the opioid epidemic. She compiled a summary of the various programs that state EMS offices implemented. States included were Michigan, Vermont, Rhode Island, South Carolina, New Jersey and Delaware. The document was submitted to the Treatment Alternatives for a Safe Community (TASC) which has helped fund this committee’s work. It will be published by TASC in the coming months. Tim and Stephanie recommended distributing it to EMS World, NASEMSO and others after it is published by TASC. Chris Montera suggested distributing it via Prodigy as online learning. Dia added that it will be marketed internally to reach other NASEMSO members. She added that we are negotiating a new subcontract with TASC to support this committee’s work in the future.

**Mini-Presentation: EMS Response to Opioid Epidemic in North Carolina**– Dr. J.E. “Tripp” Winslow, State EMS Medical Director, North Carolina, presented an overview of EMS activities related to the opioid crisis in their state. They looked at their naloxone reversal data from 2015-2017 and were concerned about the number who refused transport and who died. They decided to incorporate harm reduction activities into their statewide standard EMS protocol, which has allowed them to quietly implement these programs without controversy. The protocol includes offering the patient clean needles and syringes and offering to dispose of dirty needles, as well as offering leave behind naloxone. They currently have four counties where EMS is doing a “bridge” program using suboxone in the field as a medication assisted treatment. (10 more counties will soon be implementing the program.) The purpose of the bridge is to keep the patient safe from overdosing before they are in a treatment program. These EMS agencies have developed

community paramedic programs which follow up with patients who have overdosed. The buprenorphine-naloxone combination (Suboxone) is an effective and safe therapy for easing withdrawal symptoms. Dr. Winslow said he is also initiating suboxone administration to some patients he sees in the emergency department. Dr. Winslow thanked state EMS director Tom Mitchell for allowing him the freedom to try new approaches as well as his efforts in securing funding for these programs. Tom Mitchell added that there has been a tremendous morale boost within the EMS agencies doing the MAT program as they see it is making a difference. The presentation is available here: <https://nasemso.org/wp-content/uploads/North-Carolina-EMS-Response-to-Opioid-Epidemic-10.6.22-.pdf>

**Co-Responder Consortium Update** – Dia Gainor reported that the consortium has not meet for two months, but the good news is that they have meetings scheduled with CDC officials regarding their opioid programs. They met with the director of the SAMSHA 988 Program and made inroads and will be meeting with the Assistant Secretary of SAMSHA tomorrow.

**Discussion of Future Meeting Schedule and Content** – Tim Seplaki inquired if there are any volunteers for future presentations. He noted the OD2A grants will be a hot topic as there will be 51 state awards in early 2023. Stephanie suggested asking NAEMT’s mental health/compassion fatigue/provider wellness experts to speak. Tim also mentioned that Stephanie will be presenting next week at EMS World Expo.

**Member Comments (for those with information to share)** - Stephanie asked about negative effects of administering too much naloxone, noting they are starting to see people on the streets giving six doses of Narcan now that it is more widely available to the public. Dr. Winslow agreed they are seeing problems when administration of naloxone is overdone. The biggest problem is the patient gets extremely agitated. They have been unable to study it unfortunately. Tim and Dr. Winslow said that if you try to ask lay responders or law enforcement to give less naloxone, they often become upset. Tim commented that airway support is just as important as naloxone. Dr. Ken Williams added that so many of these overdoses are the result of polysubstance use and may not fully respond to naloxone.

Tim noted that Dr. Carroll recently published an article about the impact of EMS administering buprenorphine. It is available at: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0196064422005066?dgcid=author>

**Adjourn** – The meeting adjourned at 3:13 PM ET.

**Next Meeting** – December 1, 2022 (No meeting in November.)