



# NASEMSO Opioid & SUD Ad Hoc Committee

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## MEETING RECORD

**February 2, 2023**  
**2:00 – 3:30 PM EST**

**Attending** - Tim Seplaki, Chair, Tom McGinnis (CA), Peter Brodie (NY), Anthony Pantaleo (MI), Tim Hulings (DE), Joe Ferrell (biospatial), Josh Walters (biospatial), Rita Masiello (NJ), Eva Nelson (NJ), Arnold Alier (SC), Feven Alemu (RI), Maureen Ward (MT), Peter Geissert (OR), Ron Murphy (Cooper University Hospital, NJ), Rick Rohrbach (Cooper Hospital, NJ), Megan Salois (ME), Nancy Hoffman (NAEMT), Vicki Blanchard (NH), Steven Jones (MS), Duane Spencer (PA), Chiara Moore (MA), Ridgely Ficks (MA), Dr. Gail Bradley (AZ), Dr. Pete Tanghe

For NASEMSO: Dia Gainor, Mary Hedges, Randall Eimerman, Alex Tyeryar

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

**Self - Introductions** – Members introduced themselves.

**Review and Approve December 1st Meeting Record** – The meeting record was approved as submitted.

**Buprenorphine Resources/Users Group Discussion with Cooper Health** – Tim Seplaki introduced Rich Rohrbach and Ronald Murphy. The Cooper University Health program was the first where paramedics administered buprenorphine in the field. In 2018, after administering over 1100 doses of naloxone, they concluded they needed to do more. They consulted with the New Jersey Office of EMS since buprenorphine was outside the scope of practice for paramedics, and New Jersey OEMS enacted an executive order to allow it. Initially they worked with social workers but found they were not comfortable going into abandoned buildings where overdoses were occurring. They sent their paramedics to addiction training. They had to change hearts and minds regarding people with SUD. They put suboxone on their ALS trucks August 5, 2019. The program has evolved over three years based on what they have learned along the way.

Tim asked members about interest in developing a central clearing house for EMS initiated suboxone. Megan Salois (ME) is interested as they are beginning their suboxone program. Anthony Pantaleo (ME) is interested in participating. Arnold Alier (SC) shared they have one EMS agency starting a pilot program, which they hope will go statewide.

Tim asked those interested in developing/planning a clearinghouse or users group to forward their names to Mary Hedges at [hedges@nasemsso.org](mailto:hedges@nasemsso.org)

**Presentation: Mental Health Resilience Officer (MHRO) Course** – Nancy Hoffman, Senior Director, Education Publishing, NAEMT, presented an overview of the [Mental Health Resilience Officer Course](#). In 2021, the NAEMT Board announced that mental health resilience would be the top priority of NAEMT’s educational efforts. The course includes a series of downloadable resources. Participants receive 6 hours of CAPCE approved continuing education credit. The original course was online but due to request from the field, they created a classroom version of the course. The online course is 6 hours and the classroom version is 8 hours. The MHRO role is to identify compassion fatigue and other stressors, to advocate for peers and assist colleagues to find appropriate resources. They have received enormously positive feedback with 655 individuals having completed the course.

**Overdose Data to Action (OD2A) and Other Grants** – Tim asked members to share information on opioid grants. Arnold Alier (SC) said they recently applied for funding from the opioid reserve fund, which resulted from the big pharma lawsuits. In South Carolina it is known as the South Carolina Opioid Reserve Fund. They originally funded their COPE Program through the OD2A grant and intend to reapply. They also have SAMHSA funding for their LEON and ROLL programs, which provide naloxone to law enforcement and firefighters. Tim reported that in New Jersey, it is known as the opioid settlement fund and a committee was appointed by the Governor to award the funds. Anthony said Michigan will be dividing the opioid settlement funding between the state agencies and local agencies. No one is aware that any of the settlement funds have been disbursed yet.

**Co-Responder Consortium Update/ Update on TASC Subcontract** – Dia Gainor had to leave the meeting early and was unable to report on the [National Co-Responder Consortium](#). Mary Hedges shared that the TASC subaward to NASEMSO has been extended for another year. NASEMSO will be producing two articles for the COSSAP newsletter as well as a webinar later this month (see below).

#### **Member Comments (for those with information to share)**

- **COSSAP Webinar February 23:** Dr. Tripp Winslow will be presenting North Carolina’s EMS Response to Opioid Epidemic.
- **Other** – Anthony Pantaleo asked about plans for the Opioid Committee meeting at the NASEMSO Annual Meeting. Tim suggested a focus on the EMS buprenorphine programs. Other suggestions included: fentanyl test strips, leave-behind naloxone, and legal challenges to these harm reduction efforts, especially the syringe exchange programs. Mary said the Medical Directors Council will have the EMS-buprenorphine on their agenda which may be an opportunity for this committee to join.

**Future Topics/Speakers** –Arnold Alier will present an overview of Grant Funding Opportunities at the April meeting.

**Adjourn** – The meeting adjourned at 3:15 PM ET.

**Next Meeting** – April 6, 2023