



NASEMSO Opioid & SUD Ad Hoc Committee

MEETING RECORD

March 3, 2022
2:00 – 3:30 PM EST

Attending – Tim Seplaki (NJ), Stephanie Busch (VT), Arnold Alier (SC), Dr. Tripp Winslow (NC), Duane Spencer (PA EMSC), Carolina Roberts-Santana (RI), Anna Civitarese (RI), Anthony Pantaleo (MI), Ben Campbell (Center for Health & Justice), Dr. Gail Bradley (AZ), Kelli Perroti (WY), Paul Westlake (DE), Peter Geissert (OR), Dr. Ted Delbridge (MD), Tom Mitchell (NC), Vicki Blanchard (NH), Shane Bellard (Louisiana Ambulance Alliance), Ridgely Ficks (MA), Mike Hall (FL), Joe Ferrell (Biospatial), Steven Jones (MS), For NASEMSO: Andy Gienapp, Hannah Degn, Dia Gainor, Jennifer Robinson, Mary Hedges

Call to Order & Welcome - Tim Seplaki, Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:04 pm ET.

Self - Introductions – Attendees introduced themselves.

Review and Approve February 3 Meeting Record (attached) – The meeting record was approved as submitted.

Co-Responder Consortium Update – Dia Gainor reported that the purpose of the National Co-Responder Consortium is to create a technical assistance center to assist first responders in obtaining resources for responding to opioid and SUD events. NASEMSO is one of the leaders in the consortium.

Opioid & SUD Workshop, NASEMSO Meeting – Mary Hedges and Tim Seplaki reported that the keynote speaker for the workshop had been confirmed. It will be Connie Priddy from the Cabell County EMS QRT (Huntington, WV). This is a non-fire-based EMS system that created one of the first quick response teams to follow up with overdose patients. <https://www.cossapresources.org/Learning/PeerToPeer/Diversion/Sites/Huntington>

Tim said the planning group would meet this month to further discuss presenters and topics. Suggestions include naloxone leave behind, needle exchange, crisis intervention, field-initiated buprenorphine, data, and funding. A call for presentations will be issued for NASEMSO members.

Tim asked if anyone feels they will still have travel restrictions in place which will prevent them from attending. None reported restrictions, other than Tim who was hopeful it would be lifted by the time of the meeting.

Mini-Presentation: New Jersey's Five Minutes to Help Program – Tim Seplaki presented on New Jersey's efforts to incorporate EMS into opioid recovery. EMS treats about 37 overdose patients each day in New Jersey. About half refuse transport or leave the emergency department before being seen. EMS is taught to treat physical symptoms, and most do not understand that this was a substance use disorder and not simply a choice to use. They developed **Five Minutes to Help** to educate first responders on interacting with those suffering from addiction and to set up resources for immediate referral of those patients. They are also developing a pilot program for ALS services initiating buprenorphine in the field.

Member Comments / Discussion

Dr. Tripp Winslow share that North Carolina worked with the ALS service in Camden, NJ to develop a bridge program to care for patients who had been referred for treatment but had a waiting period. Community paramedics have to be plugged into the system to follow up with overdose patients.

Arnold Alier said South Carolina's COPE program (Community Outreach Paramedic Education/Engagement) partners paramedics with either a professional mental health provider or peer counselor on every visit. They reimburse the teams \$200 for each visit from their program funded by SAMHSA.

Tim mentioned the funding streams through SAMHSA and the pharmaceutical settlements that are available.

Fentanyl Test Strips - Tim asked for thoughts on the benefit of distributing fentanyl test strips. Stephanie said Vermont will be purchasing these and adding to their leave behind kits. Arnold commented that South Carolina includes them in their leave behind kits

Anna Civitarese shared that her background is HIV/STD and this information has been extremely helpful. She thanked Carolina for encouraging her inclusion.

Members discussed if the meeting length should continue to be 1.5 hours or if it should be limited to one hour. It was decided to keep the meeting length at 1.5 hours with the business being completed in the first hour and those who want to remain for further discussion may do so.

Next Meeting – April 7, 2022. Carolina and Anna (Rhode Island) will present next month. Anthony Pantaleo (Michigan) will present in May.

Adjourn – The meeting adjourned at 3:27 PM ET.

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