



NASEMSO Safe Transport of Children (STC) Ad Hoc Committee

MEETING RECORD

October 11, 2017
9:00 – 10:30 AM CDT
NASEMSO Fall Meeting
Oklahoma City, OK

Attending - Eric Hicken, Chair (NJ), Mary Hedges (NASEMSO), Ken Holland (NFPA), Dave Bryson (NHTSA), Cyndy Wright-Johnson (MD), Dave Edwards (VA), Dr. George Lindbeck (VA), Joe Santos (TX), Jolene Whitney (UT), Susan McHenry (NHTSA), Jim Green (Intrepid Solutions), Jacob Cartner (Ferno), Gail Gibson (LA Dept Health), Theresa Morrison-Quinata (HRSA), Katherine Dixon Hert (AL), Tracy Cleary (KS), Tracy Brim (FL), Angie Poorman (PA), Justin Allen (MI), Vicki Hildreth (WV), Morgan Scaggs (KY), Bob Norlen (MN), Jason Rhodes (RI), Billie Collier (MS), Adam Fischer (Frazer, Ltd), Rhonda Phillippi (TN)

Call to Order, Welcome, Introductions – Eric Hicken, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:08 AM CDT.

Review and Approve August 23rd Meeting Record – The August meeting record was approved without changes.

Overview of Committee Accomplishments to Date - Eric reviewed the work of the committee since it began meeting in November 2015. The STC Committee has grown from its original membership of primarily EMSC Program Managers and includes representatives of federal agencies, children’s hospitals, pediatric restraint manufacturers, EMS organizations and more. While the Committee continues to pursue funding to support a research project, it has also developed *NASEMSO Interim Guidance for the Safe Transport of Children* and a pediatric restraint comparison spreadsheet, both which are available on its webpage at <https://www.nasemso.org/Committees/STC/Resources.asp>. Eric also announced that he recently applied for a \$150,000 grant from the New Jersey state highway safety office to initiate a crash testing research project. If his office is awarded the grant, his intent is to contract with NASEMSO to implement the project.

Corporate & State Partner Initiative: An Overview– Jim Green presented an overview of the STC Committee’s initiative to conduct a research project to develop testing requirements for children transported by ambulance. The committee is seeking funding to support the project through a variety of mechanisms, including an effort to raise funds from corporate and state partners. See the funding flyer available at <https://www.nasemso.org/Committees/STC/Resources.asp> Jim described the need for developing standards as well as the process that would be followed. The research would develop testing requirements for devices used to secure children in ambulances in three situations – the supine pediatric patient, the seated child, and the neonate. The project

would follow the same process he used when working for NIOSH in developing the 10 SAE Recommended Practices/Test Methods for adult patients and workers in ambulances. Jim has worked out an arrangement where he would contract with NASEMSO and serve as engineering lead for the project once funding is acquired. The budget developed for the first year to write test methods is \$150,000. Once the actual crash testing begins in years 2 and 3, the projected cost is approximately \$500,000 per year.

Dave Bryson shared data from NHTSA's National Center for Statistics and Analysis.

For the 10-year period 2006–2015, there were 662 ambulance occupants involved in fatal crashes. Four (4) were under the age of 13. Of the 662 ambulance occupants involved in fatal crashes, 89 were killed, 1 who was a child (under 13). An estimated 101,000 occupants of ambulances were involved in traffic crashes, with an estimated 3,000 under the age of 13. An estimated 10,000 were injured. The sample size for occupants injured under age 13 was too small to produce a meaningful estimate.

While the pediatric fatality data may not be compelling, the fact that children are exposed to the possibility of a serious injury is compelling. In 2015, 750,000 children were treated and transported by ambulance.

Dave suggested establishing connections with the child safety seat industry, and inviting a representative to serve on the committee. Committee members discussed educating providers about appropriately securing children when transported. Dave said both Ferno and Stryker have guidance for restraining supine children on their cots.

Cyndy Wright-Johnson commented that she believes that the EMSC Performance Measure 3 on pediatric equipment might allow for state partnership grantees to contribute money to this project. Tracy Cleary noted that performance measures #6 and #7, which deal with inter-facility transport, may also be appropriate. Tee Morrison-Quinata indicated it would be up to the grant reviewers to determine if what is proposed by the grantee is eligible for funding.

Developing Presentation on Safely Transporting Children by Ambulance – Eric asked for volunteers to develop a presentation. Angie Poorman (PA) offered assistance as her office plans to use a videographer.

Adjourn – The meeting adjourned at 10:25 AM CDT.

Next Meeting – November 15th

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