



NASEMSO Safe Transport of Children (STC) Ad Hoc Committee

MEETING RECORD

February 18, 2016

Attending: Eric Hicken (NJ), Chair, Katherine Schafer (NM), Vice Chair, Donnie Woodyard (LA), Stephanie Busch (VT), Jay Bradshaw (NASEMSO), Mary Hedges (NASEMSO), Dr. Brian Moore (NM), Tom Winkler (PA), Dan Sjoquist (SAE Committee), Katrina Altenhofen (IA), Dave Bryson (NHTSA), Dr. Marilyn Bull (Riley Children's Hospital), Sandy Sinclair (NHTSA), Cynthia Wright Johnson (MD)

Call to Order and Call Roll – Eric Hicken, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:06 PM EST.

Review and Approve January 27th Meeting Record – Tom Winkler moved for adoption of the meeting record as presented. Katherine Schafer seconded the motion. The motion passed without opposition.

Member Spotlight - Marilyn Bull, MD, FAAP

<http://news.medicine.iu.edu/releases/2015/10/marilyn-bull-white-house-award.shtml>

Dr. Bull introduced herself, reporting that she has been working on child passenger safety issues for 30 years. She is a pediatrician actively involved in clinical care at Riley Children's Hospital in Indiana, specializing in children with special health care needs. She long ago recognized that the ambulance is a critical component of care for her patients. She published her first paper on this issue in 2000 regarding child restraint on an ambulance cot. As part of that study, they also tested a car bed for children unable to sit upright in a car seat. It has concerned her that they have not been able to develop standards to assure safety of these patients while being transported by EMS. The public perceives the ambulance as a very safe vehicle. She offered a resolution at the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) meeting about the fact that the ambulance was probably the most unsafe vehicle on the road and the need to improve the safety of children being transported. The resolution was among the top six selected by the AAP. When she was chosen by NHTSA as a Champion of Change, she lobbied USDOT leadership (NHTSA Administrator Mark Rosekind and Secretary Anthony Fox) about the safety concerns of ambulances. She was also involved in the work group that developed the 2012 NHTSA guidelines for transporting children by ambulance. She recognized that the work group could not do more until they had more comprehensive standards. Dr. Bull added that she is pleased to be a part of this committee and looks forward to what can be accomplished.

Federal Partner Update – Dave Bryson, NHTSA Office of EMS, reported that the internal NHTSA team, known as the Risk Control Innovations Program (RCIP), comprised of 12 people from different parts of NHTSA, met for 2 hours last month. They will be meeting again next week. Dave posed the question as to the need for cot standards if a child car seat is strapped to the cot. At one of the last SAE meetings, there were new standards that were adopted, and he believes one of those involved the “box” (patient compartment) integrity. Katherine Schafer asked if there is a danger that NHTSA’s work on this topic could be halted after the presidential election. Dave Bryson assured members that he will continue with this project even after a change in the administration.

Dan Sjoquist offered that he is the chair of the Seating and Restraint Committee for the SAE. Dan said that additional SAE standards are not yet final but they passed out of committee and just need to be approved by SAE. There are 10 new standards relating to ambulances that have been published by SAE, but they have identified additional changes needed for testing related to ambulances. Dave Bryson suggested that Dan and Jim Green speak on the new SAE standards at an upcoming meeting. Dr. Bull asked if Jim Green and Dan Sjoquist could present at the April meeting in Bethesda. Members agreed. Dan said the SAE has examined testing of the car seats and have taken meaningful steps to require manufacturers to test at the pulse (energy level) of the ambulance. Jay Bradshaw asked Dan for further clarification about testing requirements for pediatrics.

Ambulance Design Resource Compendium - Jay Bradshaw was with the Maine office of EMS for 30 years, serving as the director for the last 20 years. He recently retired from state government and is now leading a project for NASEMSO. It is a NIST-funded project in which NASEMSO is compiling resources related to ambulance design guidelines and standards into a single electronic reference point. There will be a glossary that will explain the role of the various entities involved in ambulance standards (GSA, CAAS, and more). There will also be an emphasis on the culture of safety in EMS. With these resources compiled, it will then be up to the states to determine what standards to adopt. He noted that the ambulance standards in existence (NFPA 1917, GVS) do not refer to children. He will be presenting the project, including a draft of the website, during the luncheon session at the NASEMSO Spring Meeting in Bethesda and will be seeking feedback from members.

Purpose & Goals Discussion (see attached) – Tom Winkler referred to the proposed goals, commenting that he thinks the goals are pretty straightforward. He indicated that they did not want to make them too specific in order to allow some flexibility. Cyndy agreed that we should not get any more specific. Dan Sjoquist agreed, noting that the goals are big picture goals but still provide parameters. As there was no opposition, Eric requested that we adopt the goals as proposed and post them on the website.

Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 1:55 PM. The next meeting will be March 23.

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