



# NASEMSO Safe Transport of Children (STC) Ad Hoc Committee

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## MEETING RECORD

**September 19, 2016**  
**1:00 – 3:00 PM Mountain time**  
**Hyatt Regency, Albuquerque**

**Attending:** Eric Hicken, Chair, Katherine Schafer, Vice Chair, Jim Green (NIOSH), Sean Caffrey (CO), Dan Sjoquist (Serenity Safety Products), Sailesh Tangirala (Ferno) John McDonald (GSA), Theresa Morrison-Quinata (HRSA), Theresa Merk (AAMS), Dr. Manish Shah (EMSC IIC), Michael Berg (AVL Committee), Katherine Hert (PECC Chair), Carolina Roberts-Santana (RI), David Harden (AZ), Elizabeth Pihlaja (ND), Dr. Brian Moore (NM), Morgan Skaggs (KY), Kjelsey Polzin (MN), Tom Winkler (PA), Vicki Hildreth (WV), Kathy Wahl (MI), Robin Suzor (MT), Craig Hemingway (NEDARC), Justin Allen (MI), Karen Moore (SC), Mike Ely (NEDARC), Stephen Wilson (AL), Dale Adkerson (OK), Wayne Denny (ID), Joy Crook (UNM), Steve McCoy (FL), Jay Bradshaw (NASEMSO), Mark Van Arnam (CAAS-GVS), Sarah McEntee (CAAS), Joe House (KS), Sue Prentiss (NASEMSO), Veronica Seymour (OR), Candace Hamilton (OR), Jason Thompson (Emergency Products and Research), Tia Dickson (UT), Hilary Hewes (UT), Steven Merkel (Braun Industries), Lisa Chevron (MD), Brandon Kelly (WY), Rose Johnson (LA), Rafaella Coler (CT), David Edwards (VA), Mary Hedges (NASEMSO)

**Attending by phone:** Elena Sierra (AAMS), Amy Haughn (AAMS), Dave Bryson (NHTSA) Dr. Marilyn Bull, Matt Maltese (Children's Hospital, Philadelphia), Cyndy Wright Johnson (MD), Paul Phillips (KY), Stephanie Busch (VT)

**Call to Order, Welcome, Introductions** – Eric Hicken, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:05 PM.

**Review and Approve August 18th Meeting Record** – The August 18<sup>th</sup> meeting record was approved without changes.

**Review of Committee Goals, Tasks and Progress** – Eric Hicken reviewed the goals of the Committee (see <https://www.nasemso.org/Committees/STC/index.asp>). He summarized the progress the Committee has made since it began meeting less than a year ago. Among the accomplishments are the summary proposals submitted to the Department of Homeland Security, First Responder Group and the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO), which seek support for crash testing research specific to kids in ambulances. The Committee continues to add new members from industry, academic, government, pediatric and other organizations with an interest in determining how EMS can safely transport infants and children.

## Presentation

James Green, NIOSH, gave a presentation detailing what needs to be done to develop evidence-based criteria for the safe transport of children in ground ambulances. He offered that we could follow a similar process to that which developed testing standards for safely securing adult patients in ambulances. These testing standards were published by the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE). The next step is for the states to adopt one or more of the standards that have been developed by CAAS (GVS) or NFPA 1917. Jim added that he believes NASEMSO would be the ideal organization to oversee the project to develop testing standards for child transport devices for ambulances. He recommended that the committee determine what sizes of children and what devices to test.

When asked if the European tests could be used for testing child transport devices, Jim responded that the USA uses different sizes and types of ambulances and has higher standards than in Europe. He noted that we use a higher crash pulse than used in crash testing in Europe. Matt Maltese commented that there could be a role for the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety in supporting this effort. Dan Sjoquist commented that there are many things that states can do now that will make a difference in improving safety for kids in ambulances now.

**Seeking Corporate Support for Crash Testing Research** – As was mentioned at the August meeting, Eric suggested that members propose potential corporate partners who may be willing to help finance research. Tom Winkler and Kjelsey Polzin volunteered to work on this initiative.

## Federal Partner Comments/Update

Dave Bryson of NHTSA had to leave the meeting early, but provided a written update. He said the Office of EMS was pleased to have Dr. Jon Krohmer as its new director. He has not yet had the opportunity to brief Dr. Krohmer on the status of the NHTSA RCIP team or activities of the NASEMSO STC Ad Hoc Committee. He noted that though the NHTSA RCIP process may be in jeopardy, the Safely Transporting Children Team is still working away on an issue summary document that includes: a) Introduction, b) NHTSA data, c) Overview of FMVSS, GSA, NFPA, CAAS and SAE standards, d) Existing cot manufacturers and their recommendations for transporting children, e) NHTSA general guidelines for transporting children (age and size chart via [safercar.gov](http://safercar.gov)), f) NHTSA Team recommendations, and g) Other topics as necessary. He added that NHTSA will share the draft summary document with external partners, especially Federal partners and the NASEMSO Safe Transport of Children Ad Hoc committee soon.

Theresa Morrison Quinata, HRSA, EMSC Program, said she would like to defer her update to the Federal Partner Update held later this week during the general session.

John McDonald, General Services Administration, said they are planning another change notice for the KKK ambulance specifications.

**Sponsor Presentation** – Jason Thompson, Emergency Products & Research, Inc. (EP+R) shared information about Rescu-Air™, noting this is the third iteration of the air-filled child seat for transporting kids in ambulances. Their vision was to create something similar to airbags. He demonstrated inflating the air-filled seat with an air pump. The life expectancy of the device is 7 years, according to Jason. There have not been problems with deflation except when the product was misused, noting one case where firefighters used it to drag equipment across the ground. He does not recommend patching if there has been a tear, but they will send a new device. He does not know if the FAA has approved the device for helicopter ambulance. The device has been crash tested, but it was not tested strapped to an ambulance cot. A slide show with much of the information he shared about the Rescu-Air™ is available at [https://1drv.ms/f/s!Ath0KYkSy8lJgoNjMMYLxsjs\\_b7ApA](https://1drv.ms/f/s!Ath0KYkSy8lJgoNjMMYLxsjs_b7ApA)

More information on the product is available at <http://www.epandr.com/products/pediatric/rescuAir.php>.

Members thanked Mr. Thompson for sponsoring the committee meeting and for his presentation.

**Adjourn** – The meeting adjourned at 2:30 PM.

**Next Meeting** – October 20

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