



NASEMSO Safe Transport of Children (STC) *Work Plan and Logistics Special Meeting*

MEETING RECORD

March 26, 2018

10:00 AM EDT

NASEMSO Headquarters

Attending – Mary Hedges (NASEMSO), Beth Armstrong (NASEMSO), Rachael Alter (NASEMSO), Zoe Renfro (NASEMSO), Cyndy Wright-Johnson (MD), Morgan Skaggs (KY), Jim Green (Intrepid Solutions), Diane Pilkey (HRSA), Dave Bryson (NHTSA), Gary Brown (VA), Remote: Eric Hicken (NJ), Dia Gainor (NASEMSO), Carolina Roberts-Santana (RI), Kathy Robinson (NASEMSO), Katherine Schafer (NM)

Welcome & Introductions – Beth Armstrong welcomed attendees to ASMI/NASEMSO headquarters. All introduced themselves.

Review Agenda and Meeting Purpose – Eric Hicken, Chair, reviewed today’s agenda, which includes the following:

- Review STC Committee’s long-term project plan
- Review how NASEMSO/ASMI would manage project funds
- Discuss funding strategies/options
- Update on Grant Applications

Update on Grant Applications – Eric Hicken, Mary Hedges

NJ Highway Safety (Sec 402) Grant – Eric said due to the problems with FY18 federal funding, the NJ Highway Safety grant was postponed until the start of the FY19 federal budget. Eric will be re-applying by April 19, with funding anticipated October 1, 2018. At that point, NJ Office of EMS will need to either contract with NASEMSO via a sole source contract (hopefully) or issue an RFP, which would take several months longer. Cyndy asked if we could work developing language to justify a sole source contract. Eric will provide the requirements for a sole source contract. **Follow up: Zoe, Cyndy, and Eric will work on developing language for NJ sole source contract, consulting with Jim as needed.**

Florida EMS Grant – Jim reported that he, Beth, Rachael applied for a Florida EMS matching grant (25% match) which was based on the assumption that the NJ grant funding would be awarded by then. The Florida grant award date would be June 2018 to begin July 1. The problem is that we now have learned that we will not have the matching funds should the grant be awarded in June 2018. It was suggested that some of the states that (NJ and VA) included \$10,000 in their EMSC grants for the STC project, which could potentially be a source of the

matching funds. Dia asked Diane Pilkey if HRSA would allow the states to add a new performance measure to address this. Diane was also asked about the additional funding HRSA EMSC was awarded for FY18. Diane indicated that it is believed this additional funding was intended for a specific purpose Congress had in mind.

Stryker Grant – Kathy Robinson explained she has had an ongoing relationship with Stryker and will be meeting with them to ask them to fund the STC proposal. Jim added that he has had conversations with Stryker about this (and worked with them for 5 years on the ambulance crash testing) and is happy to assist. Kathy was planning on meeting with them at EMS on the Hill Day, but it may be advisable to discuss this with Stryker sooner than this. **Follow up: Jim and Kathy will meet to plan the Stryker proposal.**

Overview of 5 Year Project Plan/Anticipated Costs – Jim Green presented a slide show of the long-term plan for STC research. The approach would follow the model he used when NIOSH conducted the crash tests, which eventually resulted in the 10 standards (test methods) adopted by SAE for ambulances. Stryker and Ferno partnered in the NIOSH project and are interested in partnering in the STC project as well. This project would aim for writing 3 new SAE standards: 1) Supine Pediatric Patient; 2) Seated Pediatric Patient/Passenger; and 3) Neonate, infant. The first step is to develop the test methods (write the recipe) before conducting the crash tests. This would involve creating the work groups of industry, medical and advocate partners to meet several times to write the proposed test methods and determine pass/fail criteria.

Lunch provided by NASEMSO – The group recessed for 30 minutes for lunch.

NASEMSO/ASMI Fiscal Management Overview

ASMI Fiscal Experience/Structure/Staff – Beth Armstrong, ASMI President, presented an overview of ASMI (Association and Society Management International). An association management company, ASMI currently manages 9 client associations. The advantage of an association using an association management firm is to utilize the firm's experience in fiscal, meeting planning and related expertise and allow the association to concentrate its energies in its area of expertise/interest. Beth noted that in the past year, 23 of ASMI staff members have contributed time to NASEMSO activities. ASMI manages contracts and grants for their clients. All NASEMSO staff are employees or contractors of ASMI. While many of them work exclusively for NASEMSO, others perform work for several ASMI clients. Beth explained how this project has been a leap of faith as NASEMSO has invested financially in developing a business proposal for the STC project. NASEMSO pays ASMI a flat fee to NASEMSO, so any work undertaken that exceeds the NASEMSO budget has to be supported by ASMI.

ASMI-NASEMSO Organization and Structure: Dia overviewed the role of the NASEMSO Board and Executive Committee in setting the direction for the organization.

NASEMSO Budget Explained– Gary Brown, NASEMSO Treasurer and state director from Virginia, shared his observations of the NASEMSO growth over the last 23 years since he has been as a member. He commented that NASEMSO would not be the success it is now without the staff support that ASMI has assembled for NASEMSO. His experience as NASEMSO Treasurer has allowed him to get to know and trust the fiscal accountability that ASMI provides for NASEMSO.

Contract Management – Rachael Alter, manages the contracts for ASMI. She shared an overview of how she tracks monies expended from each of the grant contracts. Each contract has to bill for various expenses such as accounting, communications, supplies, rent, indirect costs and more. Beth added that NHTSA has established an indirect rate for NASEMSO of 15% for NHTSA contracts. However, if one considers other intangible and tangible costs it is more in the neighborhood of 23%. Zoe added that monthly or quarterly reports are required for the contracts and she invests time coordinating this effort. Eric Hicken thanked NASEMSO staff for the explanation. Jim Green also thanked staff for the explanation. He shared that he appreciates the financial support NASEMSO has provided to fund his participation in relevant meetings. He is concerned about trying to fund the project through disparate sources, as well as his ability to continue to retire from his federal position to devote the time to this project which may only be partially funded.

Jim asked if ASMI/NASEMSO is allowed to fund raise through crowd-sourcing, such as GoFundMe or similar entity. Lengthy discussion followed about how to fund the long-term project by cobbling together various funding sources. Jim stressed that this project is research and he cannot guarantee a finished product, i.e., cannot be certain that SAE will publish the test methods we create.

Mary asked Eric if Stryker funded the initial project, would he be able to modify his proposal to the NJ Highway Safety Office? He thinks he could modify his proposal. Jim asked if NASEMSO is willing to commit to seeking funding for this proposal. Beth said the Executive Committee is already considering a 50% increase in dues to offset losses in federal funding.

Jim said there has been significant consolidation in the ambulance industry which could be a source of revenue.

Gary also suggested that we pitch the STC project to FICEMS as a priority. Dave Bryson said it could be on the agenda of the FICEMS Technical Working Group (TWG).

Closing Thoughts

Next Steps/Where do we go from here?

Cyndy thanked everyone and said she has learned a great deal at this meeting. She believes a document (similar to the brochure Jim created) would be helpful in sharing the information with other councils/committees.

Morgan Skaggs said there is an opportunity at the EMSC Partnership Meeting next month to share the information.

Dave Bryson said that in respect to the recent North Carolina pediatric fatality in the ambulance crash, the focus has become the drunk driver in the car, rather than focusing on how it could have been prevented had the ambulance appropriately secured the child on the respirator.

Jim Green said he was pleased to hear the Stryker grant is under consideration. He is waiting to see if we commit an active fundraising group. Jim also asked if NASEMSO would be willing to assign a person to lead the fundraising effort. Beth indicated this would fall within Dia's responsibilities. Beth also acknowledged that she sees this as part of Jim's role in developing his business. He agreed.

Mary commented that after working on this effort for the past 2 years, she sees the potential funding getting closer to becoming a reality. It is a very expensive project which makes it much more challenging to fund.

Zoe added that she was pleased to learn more about the project and looks forward to continued involvement.

Beth said she realizes this is a big project and hopes we are able to seek the funding.

Rachael said if we do not pursue funding for the project, the committee may not need to continue to meet.

Gary said that education is the key. We need to get this message to our individual states (including advisory boards) as well as before FICEMS and NEMSAC.

Adjourn – The meeting adjourned at 2:45 PM.