



NASEMSO Safe Transport of Children (STC) Committee

MEETING RECORD

October 24, 2019

1:30 PM EDT

Attending – Eric Hicken (NJ), Katherine Schafer (NM), David Harden (AZ), Kevin Gallagher (Innovative Safety Solutions/ EVS Ltd), Karter Kistler (EVS Ltd), Katrina Altenhofen, Patrick Wilson (Quantum EMS), Mark Roberts (Quantum EMS), Dr. Marilyn Bull (Riley Hospital for Children at IU), Tim Karney (First Line Technology), Charlie Vits (IMMI), Kjelsey Polzin (MN), Jim Green (NASEMSO), Stefanie Zucker (Pediatric Medical), Mike Kulig (Calspan), Dave Bryson (NHTSA), Dr. Michael Kaufmann (IN), Amy Haughn (AAMS), Dia Gainor (NASEMSO), Mary Hedges (NASEMSO)

Call to Order, Welcome, Introductions – Eric Hicken, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:35 PM EDT.

Review and Approve August 28th Meeting Record – Altenhofen moved; Schafer seconded approval of the August 28th minutes. The motion was sustained without objection.

Self-Introductions of New Members - Kevin Gallagher introduced himself. Kevin is from Innovative Safety Solutions and is presently working under contract with EVS Ltd. He developed the Guardian Safety Seat for use by uninjured children who accompany an adult patient in the back of an ambulance (e.g., after a car crash). He is currently involved with EVS and they are working on developing a next generation integrated pediatric safety seat. Kevin also participated in the NIOSH project to develop testing standards for adults in the back of an ambulance.

Special Presentation: Safe Transport of Children Crash Test Project Update – Dia Gainor, Executive Director, provided an overview of the NASEMSO planning and preparation efforts to develop an unsolicited proposal with support from the broader EMS community. She shared the executive summary and list of organizations (both EMS organizations and industry groups) that have endorsed the project. It took several months to gather the support from the various organizations. She encouraged members to share the executive summary with those who may be interested. There is also a much more detailed project proposal that includes specific tasks, the timeline and budget breakdown. The full proposal will be made available to potential funders who have expressed interest in supporting the project. The executive summary and brochure are available at <https://nasemsso.org/wp-content/uploads/NASEMSO-Safe-Transport-of-Children-Executive-Summary.pdf> and <https://nasemsso.org/wp-content/uploads/STC-funding-brochure-Oct-2019.pdf>

David Harden inquired if there are states that have liability protection for those using or not using the child safety restraints. Dave Bryson commented that the liability issue arises frequently following ambulance crashes that involve adult patients and EMS personnel. There is case law that addresses this. Dave also commented that NHTSA could review state laws that deal with the liability issue.

Stefanie Zucker commented that she recently shared the executive summary with a number of people and they are particularly impressed with the many organizations that have endorsed the project. One question that arose was what was meant by “companion pediatric transport” in the executive summary? Dia explained this involves the uninjured child who must be transported along with an injured adult (e.g., after a car crash when there is no one to care for the child).

Jim Green shared that he works next door to a large university hospital (JW Ruby, West Virginia University) which is currently building a children’s hospital and which has a foundation. He has approached the foundation and they are very interested. He suggested that other members help identify relevant foundations, particularly those that focus on children’s safety, health and wellness. Dr. Bull agreed that every free-standing children’s hospital has its own foundation. Most do not accept unsolicited proposals, but it is worth pursuing particularly if you have a connection.

Being a new member of the committee, David Harden asked how the project funds would be used. Dia and Jim explained that the funds would finance the 5-year, \$2.2 million crash test project. The funds would be used primarily to pay for crash testing of the various pediatric products at independent test labs. The manufacturers would donate their child restraint devices for the testing process. Jim offered to follow up with David and provide a more comprehensive explanation.

Mark Roberts inquired how much of the information will be made available during the testing process? He expressed concern about protecting the manufacturer’s testing results. Jim Green responded that the testing results would not be public or shared with other members of the committee. He explained how it was handled during the NIOSH testing where they signed non-disclosure agreements with each company that participated. The products were not identified at the testing lab and Jim kept the results of each test private. Mark felt this was an appropriate safeguard. Dia added that NASEMSO is a private, non-profit and not subject to sunshine laws pertaining to disclosure of public data. Kevin Gallagher said he represented a manufacturer involved in the NIOSH testing that Jim led and he felt the testing results were handled very securely. Kevin added that all the manufacturers who participated received extremely good value from the testing. He learned a great deal and felt it was a very good cost-benefit ratio for the manufacturers.

Mary Hedges asked how one makes the connections to foundations associated with the various children's hospitals. Jim said it is a matter of finding someone locally to make the connection to the children's hospital foundation. Eric Hicken said a number of EMSC managers have connections with their local children's hospitals and are often housed with them. Eric asked about crowd-funding. Dia said that some of these organizations, such as GoFundMe, do not have the best reputations.

Federal Partner Comments/Update – There were no federal partner updates.

Adjourn – The meeting adjourned a 2:34 PM EDT.

Next Meeting – February 27th (There will be no December meeting as the regular meeting date falls on December 26th.)

The meeting minutes were respectfully prepared by NASEMSO Program Manager Mary Hedges.