



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

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## MEETING RECORD

**June 16, 2016  
1:00 PM EDT**

**Attending** - Eric Hicken, Chair (NJ), Katherine Schafer, Vice Chair (NM), Cyndy Wright-Johnson (MD), Sailesh Tangirala (Ferno), Carolina Roberts-Santana (RI), Michael Berg (AVL Committee), Sue Morris (HITS Committee), Rachael Alter (NASEMSO), Dave Bryson (NHTSA Office of EMS), Sandy Sinclair (NHTSA, Occupant Protection), John McDonald (GSA), Tom Winkler (PA), Mary Hedges (NASEMSO), Theresa Morrison-Quinata (EMSC)

**Call to Order and Call Roll** – Eric called the meeting to order at 1:07 PM EDT. Mary called roll, noting that a number of members had informed her they would not be available to participate.

**Approve May 25th Meeting Record** – The May meeting record was approved without changes.

### **Federal Partner Comments/Update**

Sandy Sinclair or Dave Bryson, NHTSA's Risk Control Innovations Program – Dave Bryson reported NHTSA's internal team, the RCIP, will meet next Tuesday. He is preparing a summary document which will eventually be presented to the NHTSA Leadership. RCIP's findings and recommendations are due to be reported to the leadership later this summer. Dave said he read in last month's meeting record that Jim Green is planning on retiring from NIOSH, adding he hopes NIOSH continues to be involved in ambulance safety. Dave commented there has been good discussion among the federal partners on this issue, with EMSC representatives more recently included in the discussions. He urged that action be taken sooner rather than later. Several members shared questions or comments in response to Dave's update.

T. Morrison-Quinata, EMSC Program – Tee reported that she just heard that the EMSC Performance Measures have been approved by OMB. They should be released soon.

**Scope of Work Discussion** – Katherine Schafer led the discussion about scope of work. Last week a few members of the committee met by teleconference to discuss what should be included in a proposal that the Committee may develop. Where is the greatest need? What questions arise most?

Neonatal Transports - Mary reported she and Jim Green spoke with Dr. Marilyn Bull last month and agreed that testing of isolettes in neonatal transports should be a separate project. It is important, but involves another group of experts who have already been involved in this issue.

Interim Guidance - Katherine asked if the Committee should examine short term guidance until crash testing and standards can be completed, which is at least a 3-year process. It was agreed interim guidance is needed.

Medical/Clinical Criteria - Dave Bryson mentioned that medical criteria to determine how the injured/sick child is transported should be included -- Does the child's condition require spinal immobilization and/or lying flat? When is it more appropriate to transport child upright or seated? How does the need for continuous medical monitoring and/or interventions impact the decision?

Mother and Newborn - Cyndy Wright-Johnson frequently faces the question of transporting the newborn infant with the mom. The challenge is changing the practice of transporting the newborn infant on the mother's chest, and she continually advises that the infant needs to be transported separately and securely. Mike Berg said even in the urban area in Virginia, they will not call a second ambulance to transport the newborn separately. Eric said the practice is the same in New Jersey. Several members commented on the difficulty in convincing providers to separate mom and baby; a way to safely transport mom and newborn together is needed.

Existing Equipment- Sailesh mentioned that in the times he has seen children being transported, the major concern from the user standpoint is the need for equipment for transporting the toddler or child, either supine or seated. He suggested using the existing adult cot and seat requirements to see how they would meet the requirements of transporting a toddler or child with appropriate restraints. There was also discussion about the restraint equipment that has been tested in Europe, recognizing that ambulance vehicles in Europe are different than those used in the U.S. Cyndy reported that the national statistics indicate 10 - 12% of 911 transports are pediatric transports.

Eric recapped the discussion about scope of work and thanked everyone for their participation.

**Adjourn** – The meeting adjourned at 2:05 PM EDT.

### **Upcoming Meetings**

- **July 27**
- **August 18**
- **September 20** (in-person, Albuquerque)

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