



NASEMSO Safe Transport of Children (STC) Ad Hoc Committee

MEETING RECORD

May 25, 2016
1:00 PM EDT

Attending – Eric Hicken, Chair (NJ), John McDonald (GSA), Sandy Sinclair (NHTSA), Jim Green (NIOSH), Kjelsey Polzin (MN), Dan Sjoquist (Serenity Safety Products), Katrina Altenhofen, Sailesh Tangirla (Ferno), Stephanie Busch (VT), Cyndy Wright-Johnson (MD), Mary Hedges (NASEMSO), Rachael Alter (NASEMSO)

Call to Order and Call Roll – Eric Hicken, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:05 PM EDT.

Review and Approve April 6th Meeting Record – The April 6th meeting record was approved without changes. Eric said he was excited and amazed about the interest shown at the meeting in April, adding it was fantastic to see the packed room and the many representatives from NHTSA.

Member Spotlight – John McDonald, General Services Administration. John has been with GSA for 12 years and has a background in the fire service. The GSA purchases items for the federal government, including ambulances. GSA developed the KKK or “K” specification for purchasing ambulances in 1974, when EMS was moving away from using hearses. The specifications have been revised about every five years. GSA is now in Revision F (published in 2007). GSA issues “Change Notices” when revisions to the specifications are made. GSA issued Change Notice 8 in summer of 2015, which incorporated much of NIOSH’s crash testing research results. The K Specification will be maintained as an active standard until an acceptable alternative has been adopted. Most states still reference the K standard. The slides will be distributed to the Committee members.

Federal Partner Comments/Update

- Sandy Sinclair, NHTSA’s Risk Control Innovations Program – Sandy thanked the organizers of the NASEMSO Spring Meeting. He specifically thanked Cindy Wright-Johnson, who has been a tireless voice over the years on the issue, as well as Katrina Altenhofen. He reported that the RCIP team from NHTSA really learned a great deal at the NASEMSO meeting in April. They support the efforts of everyone who has been working on this

issue to make ground ambulances safer. The RCIP group is supposed to complete their work with recommendations to NHTSA management later this summer.

- Tina Turgel or T. Morrison-Quinata, EMSC Program were not able to join the meeting due to a scheduling conflict with an EMSC meeting.
- Jim Green, NIOSH - Jim said the last 3 of 10 ambulance standards are going to SAE for publication. He is also working on a video series which will document the work they have completed to develop the ambulance standards. He believes the same methodology used for developing the 10 ambulance standards can be applied to the child safety standards in ambulances. The ambulance builders are willing to partner with us to develop the child transport standards. Much of the funding for developing the ambulance standards came from the Department of Homeland Security. DHS will be holding a stakeholder meeting July 12-14, in the Washington, DC area to explore projects to fund. The committee is known as the First Responders Resource Group at DHS. Jim is now a member of the group and will be attending the meeting. He added that NIOSH is unlikely going to select this as a project, because pediatric transport safety is less related to worker safety than the previous project. Jim will be retiring from NIOSH and would be willing to work on this in an independent capacity. He added that Milt Nenneman is chair of the First Responders Resource Group at DHS. Mary said she has advised Dia Gainor about the DHS meeting and is encouraging her to attend on behalf of NASEMSO.

Next Steps/ Where do we go from here? – Eric thanked Jim for helping to point the way to what we need to do next. He asked if there are testing standards in existence that can be utilized? Jim suggested we create a framework or a proposal to send to potential funders. John McDonald said that GSA would be willing to participate in the project. Dan Sjoquist agreed that we need to develop testing standards for the child transport equipment as was done with the adult ambulance occupants. Sailesh said it will be a two-step process - the first to write the standards and the second to manufacture the equipment. He added that we need to define the scope of work first. Jim said they ran parallel efforts when developing the cot standards for ambulances. They crafted consensus standards for testing – one for seated passengers and one for patients on a cot. Katrina asked if we can use some of the previous work involving ambulance standards as a template. Cyndy added there are opportunities for funding and opportunities for contracting. Mary asked if the scope of practice needs to include the testing of car beds for infants, as what the 2012 NHTSA Best Practices document mentions. Cyndy said in her experience that is the question (transporting by car beds) they receive most often, especially for inter-facility transfers. Stephanie Busch proposed that members identify their priorities before the next meeting. Katrina suggested we round up

support from other organizations to document the need for pediatric transport standards. Eric agreed and said a template letter of support would be helpful to send to other organizations. Mary said she has been working with Jim Green on developing some language for a scope of work and has a call scheduled with Dr. Marilyn Bull to discuss the issue as well. Several members agreed to help with defining a scope of work, including Eric, Cindy, Katrina, Jim and Dan. Mary will send a poll for scheduling a call between June 6-10.

Adjourn - The meeting adjourned at 2:32 PM EDT / **Next Meeting – June 16**

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