



# FICEMS

Federal Interagency Committee on EMS

Westin Washington, D.C. City Center  
1400 M Street NW, Washington, DC  
December 6, 2017

## Meeting Summary

### Members in Attendance

#### *Department of Defense (DoD)*

Terry Rauch, Ph.D., Director, Office of Force Health Protection and Readiness Programs

#### *Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)*

Edward J. Gabriel, M.P.A., Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response

CAPT Richard Niska, M.D., M.P.H., Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

Theresa Morrison-Quinata, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)

Jean K. Sheil, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

CAPT Celissa Stephens, Indian Health Service

#### *Department of Homeland Security (DHS)*

G. Keith Bryant, U.S. Fire Administration

Ray Mollers, M.S.A., Office of Health Affairs

David Wade, M.D., Deputy Chief Medical Officer

#### *Department of Transportation (DOT)*

Heidi King, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA)

Jon Krohmer, M.D., NHTSA

#### *Federal Communications Commission (FCC)*

David Furth, J.D., Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau

#### *State EMS Directors*

Joseph Schmider, Texas State EMS Director

### Welcome, Introductions, and Opening Remarks

*Edward J. Gabriel, M.P.A., FICEMS Vice Chair*

Mr. Gabriel called this meeting of the Federal Interagency Committee on Emergency Medical Services (FICEMS) to order at 1:05 p.m. He explained that the FICEMS chair, Dave Fluty, was unable to attend and that this would be the first FICEMS meeting to be broadcast online.

Dr. Krohmer introduced Ms. King, the new deputy administrator and acting administrator of NHTSA. Ms. King explained that she had worked in law enforcement as a 911 dispatcher and

peace officer and was a volunteer emergency medical technician. Emergency medical service (EMS) is valuable not only for saving lives but also for reducing the severity of injuries and enhancing quality of life in communities.

## **Review and Approval of Executive Summary of August 15, 2017 Meeting**

A motion to approve the summary of the August 15, 2017, FICEMS meeting carried unanimously.

## **National EMS Advisory Council (NEMSAC) Update**

*Vince Robbins, M.S., Chair of NEMSAC*

Mr. Robbins explained that NEMSAC last met in August 2017, and this was the last meeting of the council's 2-year cycle. This NEMSAC issued more than 12 advisories on a broad range of topics. NEMSAC recently issued its final report, which is available online. The council is now waiting for the reappointments of some current members and the appointments of new members.

Dr. Krohmer expected these appointments and reappointments to be made in the near future. Mr. Gabriel said that NEMSAC has done outstanding work over the last few years, and its work is critical for FICEMS.

## **Joint Discussion on Prehospital Trauma Care**

*Edward J. Gabriel, M.P.A., FICEMS Vice Chair*

Mr. Gabriel explained that FICEMS issued a draft statement on prehospital trauma care in August, and FICEMS and the Council on Emergency Medical Care had held a joint listening session earlier in the day on improving prehospital trauma care. The community stakeholders in attendance expressed a strong interest in collaborating to improve prehospital care.

Dr. Krohmer reported that this was the first joint meeting sponsored by CEMC and FICEMS. The meeting brought together stakeholders representing different prehospital care providers, and representatives of several federal agencies listened to the discussion. The meeting began with an overview of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) report, *A National Trauma Care System: Integrating Military and Civilian Trauma Systems to Achieve Zero Preventable Deaths After Injury*, and its 11 recommendations by Dr. Autumn Downey of NASEM. Two of these recommendations are particularly relevant to EMS:

- The American College of Surgeons, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, and the National Association of State EMS Officials should work jointly to enable patient-level linkages across the National EMS Information System Project's National EMS Database and the National Trauma Data Bank.
- Congress, in consultation with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, should identify, evaluate, and implement mechanisms that ensure the inclusion of prehospital care (e.g., emergency medical services) as a seamless component of health care delivery rather than merely a transport mechanism.

Participants had an open dialog on many issues and offered numerous suggestions on how to approach these issues, including some steps that are easy to implement in the short term. A

summary of the meeting will be prepared and distributed, and this dialog will continue. Mr. Gabriel suggested that FICEMS discuss this issue again after the summary has been issued.

## **Recognition of Susan McHenry**

Mr. Gabriel recognized Susan McHenry, who will retire shortly from the Office of EMS at NHTSA. He thanked her for her service and said that she will be greatly missed by all of the federal partners. Ms. McHenry said that it has been a joy to work with FICEMS over the years.

## **Technical Working Group (TWG) Committee Reports**

Dr. Krohmer and Mr. Mollers cochair the TWG, which is made up of staff of all FICEMS agencies and other federal agencies. The TWG's four committees implement the goals of the FICEMS strategic plan and report to the TWG. Since the last meeting, the TWG reconfigured its committees slightly.

### **Evidence-Based Practice and Quality**

*Diane Pilkey, R.N., M.P.H., HRSA*

Ms. Pilkey, who cochairs this committee with Cathy Gotshall, Sc.D., DOT, reported that the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality's Evidence-Based Practice Center has completed its systematic review, *Management of Suspected Opioid Overdose with Naloxone by Emergency Medical Services Personnel*. The Office of EMS at NHTSA is collaborating with the American College of Surgeons to develop a strategy for revising the field triage guidelines. The National Institutes of Health Office of Emergency Care Research has implemented the Strategies to Innovate Emergency Care Clinical Trials Network (SIREN), which has 11 hub sites and 30–40 spoke hospitals. The Office of EMS has awarded a cooperative agreement to the American College of Surgeons in partnership with the National Association of State EMS Officials (NASEMSO) to develop a joint policy statement on the bilateral exchange of EMS and trauma data.

The committee and NHTSA revised a letter to the White House from FICEMS requesting a meeting to discuss the role of EMS in national trauma system planning. A motion carried to approve this letter.

### **EMS Data Standards and Exchange**

*Susan McHenry, M.S., NHTSA*

Ms. McHenry cochairs this committee with Rachel Abbey, M.P.H., of the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC). She reported that more states are linking their EMS data with the state's trauma registry data, and ONC has finalized several tools and resources describing the current landscape of EMS in health information exchanges. The California EMS authority has worked with NASEMSO to launch the National Health Information for EMS Workgroup, which will hold its first meeting in January 2018.

## **EMS Systems Integration**

*Gamunu Wijetunge, NHTSA*

This new committee, which Mr. Wijetunge cochairs with Mr. Mollers, replaces the Preparedness Committee. In response to a public comment at the August FICEMS meeting, the Model Uniform Core Criteria (MUCC) for Mass Casualty Triage addendums to the Instructional Guidelines of the National EMS Education Standards have now been posted at [www.ems.gov](http://www.ems.gov), and an EMS Focus webinar on MUCC is scheduled for January 2018. The CDC's Framework for Expanding EMS System Capacity During Medical Surge is now available at <https://www.cdc.gov/phpr/readiness/healthcare/Expanding-EMS-Systems.htm>. The committee has reviewed NASEMSO's 2015 resolution on tracking emergency patients, and it plans to draft a formal recommendation on this issue for FICEMS.

## **Safety, Education, and Workforce**

*Jennifer Marshall, National Institute of Standards and Technology*

Ms. Marshall, who cochairs this committee with Dave Bryson of NHTSA, explained that the Bureau of Labor Statistics recently issued a notice about plans to replace the joint code for emergency medical technicians and paramedics with two separate codes and to replace the fire, police, and ambulance dispatcher with public safety telecommunicator. The committee continues to track resources to improve work environment safety for EMS personnel, and more of these resources are being developed. Several activities are underway to address risk management of fatigue, and the committee is tracking the scope of practice in the EMS Agenda 2050.

A motion carried unanimously to accept the reports of the TWG committees.

## **EMS Agenda 2050**

*Gam Wijetunge NHTSA*

Mr. Wijetunge provided an update on the ongoing effort to revise the EMS Agenda for the Future, issued in 1996 by NHTSA and HRSA. This agenda has driven a great deal of EMS system development work over the past 20 years. Throughout 2017 and 2018, the EMS community is creating a new vision for the future of EMS, EMS Agenda 2050. A technical expert panel is collecting community input and drafting the agenda.

In August 2017, the panel issued a strawman agenda for collaboration, and it is holding four national public meetings around the country. These meetings provide opportunities for EMS community members to help draft the agenda, and Mr. Wijetunge encouraged all EMS community members to attend in person if possible. A second strawman draft will be released in early 2018. Once the final agenda is issued, an implementation forum will be held in Washington, DC, in the fall of 2018. In addition to the public meetings, stakeholders may submit comments online, receive email updates, and participate in an upcoming public webinar.

## **Opioid Overdose Epidemic Update**

*Jeremy Kinsman, M.P.H., NHTSA*

Between 1999 and 2010, the overwhelming majority of opioid deaths were from prescription opioid analgesics. The number of heroin-related deaths began rising sharply in 2010, and more

opioid overdose deaths are now related to illicitly manufactured opioids, including fentanyl and its analogs.

Recent developments related to the opioid overdose epidemic are:

- Development of an EMS evidence-based guideline for the suspected opioid overdose patient by NASEMSO in collaboration with the American College of Emergency Physicians and National Association of EMS Physicians by March 2018
- Update of the national EMS Scope of Practice Model to add authority for administering opiate antagonists for emergency medical responders and emergency medical technicians
- Recommendations by the President's Commission on Combatting Drug Addiction and the Opioid Crisis  
([https://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/whitehouse.gov/files/images/Final\\_Report\\_Draft\\_11-1-2017.pdf](https://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/whitehouse.gov/files/images/Final_Report_Draft_11-1-2017.pdf))
- Fentanyl safety recommendations for first responders  
(<https://www.whitehouse.gov/ondcp/key-issues/fentanyl>) published in November 2017

Mr. Schmider suggested that FICEMS explore the use of illicit opioids or the diversion of prescription opioids by EMS personnel. Dr. Krohmer was not aware of any efforts to study recreational drug use by EMS providers. Mr. Gabriel suggested determining whether anyone is tracking this use.

## **Other Emerging Issues in EMS from Federal Agencies and Agency Updates**

Mr. Furth reported that February 16, 2018, is the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first 911 call, which occurred in Haleyville, Alabama. This anniversary will provide an opportunity to celebrate the extraordinary success of the 911 system and raise public awareness. He recommended that FICEMS members put this date on their calendars and consider ways to bring 911 issues to the broader public.

Dr. Wade offered to report to FICEMS on FirstNet. A public notice will be issued shortly requesting comments on the performance of communications technology during the four recent hurricanes. CAPT Niska offered to give a presentation to FICEMS on CDC's EMS activities.

## **Public Comment**

Larry Hadland of South Snohomish County Fire & Rescue encouraged FICEMS to embrace the tenets of the Patient Safety and Quality Improvement Act of 2005. Reporting near-misses will allow out-of-hospital care providers to use lessons learned by their colleagues. He noted that most of the individuals with an opioid overdose that his agency serves do not end up in the hospital. Once they are awake and able to make their own decisions, they are free to leave, and the agency has no statutory authority to detain them. He recommended that FICEMS review the innovative program established by the St. Charles County, Missouri, Ambulance District to follow up with people who have had an opioid overdose and refer them to assistance they might need. It is time for EMS to become proactive, not just reactive, in combatting the opioid overdose epidemic.

## **Election of 2018 Chair and Vice-Chair**

FICEMS elected Mr. Gabriel as the new chair and Ms. King as the new vice chair of FICEMS.

## **Adjournment**

Mr. Gabriel thanked the tens of thousands of first responders who provided emergency responses in the last 6 months after hurricanes and mass shooting incidents.

A motion carried to adjourn the meeting at 2:39 pm.