

**National Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council (NEMSAC)  
October 15–16, 2018  
Executive Summary**

**Call to Order and Introductions**

Mr. Vincent Robbins welcomed NEMSAC members and other participants to this meeting. NEMSAC members identified conflicts of interest.

**Approval of August 14–15, 2017, NEMSAC Meeting Minutes**

A motion to approve the minutes of the August 14–15, 2017, NEMSAC meeting carried unanimously.

**Federal Liaison Updates**

Department of Transportation (DOT): Susan McHenry, MS, program manager with EMS; Catherine Gotschall, Sc.D.; and Jeffrey Michael, MD, associate administrator of research and program development have retired. Dr. Krohmer will serve as the acting associate administrator of research and program development while the DOT undergoes a national search to fill the position. New staff members include Jeremy Kinsman, MPH, EMS specialist; Kate Elkins, EMS specialist; Katharyn Kryda, ASPPH/NHTSA public health fellow; Max Severide MPH; and Eric Chaney, current branch chief of operational medicine at Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

Department of Homeland Security (DHS): The Office of Health Affairs (OHA) is merging with the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office to create an office for countering weapons of mass destruction by direction of the U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security. OHA on boarded an assistant secretary and a chief medical officer, separating the two responsibilities that used to be held by one person. DHS has a growing need requirement for tactical EMS and will call upon former OHA members to partner in EMS.

Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA): The emergency medical services for children program (EMSC) program within HRSA is designed to ensure that all children and adolescents no matter where they live, attend school, or travel, receive appropriate care in a health emergency. Moving forward, EMSC is excited to launch a new learning collaborative, which is focusing on identifying best practices for increasing the number of EMS emergencies with pediatric emergency care coordinators.

Office of Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR): The agency began to manage the strategic national stockpile as of October 1st, with a continued partnership with CDC. The Biological Advance Research and Development Authority (BARDA) builds treatment modalities and countermeasures for everything from flu, pandemic, to weapons of mass destruction.

## **Swearing in of NEMSAC Members**

*Heidi King, NHTSA, Deputy Administrator*

## **Special Presentation: EMS Agenda 2050**

*Michael Gerber, NRP, RedFlash Group*

Mr. Gerber provided the history and background of how the EMS Agenda 2050 came to fruition. In April 2014, NEMSAC recommended a major revision of the EMS Agenda for the Future, and in June 2014 FICEMS unanimously voted to proceed with a revision. The contract was awarded to RedHorse Corporation and RedFlash Group in 2016. A technical expert panel gathered in September 2017 to discuss the Straw Man Document, which consisted of 266 written comments that were provided during the public comments period. Collaboration and dialogue took place between 769 registrants for public meetings in Silver Spring, MD; Dallas, TX; Minneapolis, MD; and Los Angeles, CA.

NEMSAC members discussed the use of the term paramedicine to create a unifying vision, the higher-level approach to greeting the EMS agenda 2050, showcasing NEMSAC's role in recommending and advising the EMS Agenda 2050, the recurring theme of safety quality and outcomes in EMS, and avoiding the term "provider" as a substitute for "physician."

## **Public Comment**

Dave Finger, government official, for National Volunteer Fire Council said that there are good ideas and challenges facing rural EMS agencies, including declining retention of volunteers. Mr. Finger added that a large concern is that leadership has limited time and staff, and they could use resources to implement recruitment and retention efforts. Mr. McIntyre, Mr. Finger, Mr. Washko, and Ms. Bartram discussed agency associated benefit of volunteers and whether that was addressed by the IRS, support for deputized positions, medical schools that are requiring EMT training, and variations in training standards. Dia Gainor, MPA, executive director, NASEMSO, requested that the word relegate not be used as it suggests an inferior position.

## **Overview of the FICEMS Strategic Plan**

FICEMS asked the TWGs to develop a strategic plan to codify common goals and ensure that the interagency work is complimentary. The DHS Office of Health Affairs, with additional funding from the DoD and NHTSA secured a contractor to facilitate the process and develop the final product. The goal of the project was to develop a high-level, five-year strategic plan to drive the interagency work of FICEMS. Its vision statement describes it as "a Federal interagency committee that enhances coordination and ensures the strategic alignment of EMS priorities among Federal agencies to ensure quality patient care. Its mission statement is to "ensure coordination among Federal agencies supporting local, regional, State, tribal, and territorial emergency medical services and 911 systems to improve the delivery of EMS services throughout the nation."

## **Review and Discussion of Previously Approved NEMSAC Recommendations**

Mr. Baird suggested reviewing the FICEMS plan around stability to ensure that the 2050 Agenda addresses it. Drs. Diaz and Fallat advocated for prioritizing the mental health and wellness EMS provider advisory. Mr. Washko and Dr. Baird suggested determining which of the six guiding principles from the 2050 Agenda can apply to the advisory and then lumping advisories together that are similar. Mr. Robbins provided an updated list of work product ideas for NEMSAC 2018-2019.

NEMSAC members recommended amending the NEMSAC committee names to instead use the 2050 Agenda verbiage. Mr. Robbins asked if all were in favor of amending the names. No one opposed. Dr. Diaz recommended replacing the word provider with practitioner in the 2050 agenda moving forward. Mr. Robbins asked if all were in favor to vote. A motion carried unanimously.

## **Review of Ongoing NHTSA Projects**

### NHTSA OEMS and 911 Update

Mr. Wijetunge provided an overview of NHTSA's history over the past 50 years. The National Trauma Systems Initiative set a goal to decrease MVC deaths by 500 by 2021 by providing leadership to the EMS community with the 1996 EMS Agenda for the Future. Mr. Wijetunge reviewed the EMS incident recognition process. NHTSA has two major, inter-related program areas: Emergency Medical Services and the National 9-1-1 Program. NHTSA's national EMS priorities are to take a system's approach by improving EMS health outcomes; expand and monitor EMS system capacity; coordinate Federal support of local, State, and tribal EMS systems; promote a prepared and credentialed health workforce through partnership and collaboration.

### NEMSIS Program

Unified data standard has allowed NEMSIS to collect valuable data that helps conduct QA and QI and improves EMS Systems at a local level. The large volume of data informs evidence-based guidelines (EBGs). There is a collaborative national strategy for EBG development and implementation.

## **Discussion of NEMSAC Focus Areas for 2018-2019**

NEMSAC members discussed the current committee names and recommended new committee names. NEMSAC members discussed focus areas and made recommendations for where they should be housed.

## **Public Comment**

There were no public comments. Public comments were closed.

## **Continue Discussion of NEMSAC Focus Areas for 2018-2019**

NEMSAC members continued discussed focus areas and made recommendations for where they should be housed. Mr. Robbins stated that NEMSAC will turf the 2018-2019 focus areas discussed to the six new reorganized committees and leave it to the committees' chair and vice chair to determine what order they want to take them in, whether they can tackle all of them or need to pare them down.

### **Election of Chair and Vice Chair**

A motion carried unanimously to nominate Mr. Robbins as chair of NEMSAC. Mr. Robbins accepted the nomination. Ms. Montera and Mr. Baird were nominated as vice chair. They both accepted the nominations. Following the voting ballot, Ms. Montera was voted as vice chair. Ms. Montera accepted.

### **NEMSAC Next Steps and Wrap up**

Mr. Robbins encouraged council members to email their committee choices. He will work to get the suggested advisories compiled and assigned to different committees. All council members are encouraged to communicate with him, Dr. Krohmer, and staff with questions related to the council. Mr. Wijetunge thanked everyone at NHTSA for the work of the council. He stated that the comments on the bios were going to the wrong contractors, and he will check in with members before bios are made public.