

NEMSAC NOTES

FROM THE FOURTH MEETING OF THE NATIONAL EMS ADVISORY COUNCIL,
29-30 JANUARY 2009

INTRODUCTION

The National EMS Advisory Council (NEMSAC) met for the fourth time 29-30 January 2009 at the Crystal City Marriott in Arlington, VA. “NEMSAC Notes” are highlights from the meeting, not an official record; you may find the official meeting minutes and other NEMSAC information at www.EMS.gov.

PRESENTATIONS

NEMSAC hosted presentations on topics related to the work of its committees:

EMS Management and Leadership Development in America: Agenda for the Future

Skip Kirkwood presented the National EMS Management Association’s (NEMSMA) agenda for developing EMS management and leadership personnel. The agenda provides a model process for developing EMS leadership and emphasizes a need for stakeholder participation to ensure an adequate workforce.

Fire and Emergency Services Higher Education (FESHE)

Mike Ward presented on the Fire and Emergency Services in Higher Education initiative and the EMS Management Curriculum Committee’s work. He described the process of designing and implementing FESHE and how the results could be used for EMS workforce development.

EMS Workforce Agenda for the Future

John Becknell reviewed the NHTSA project *EMS Workforce Agenda for the Future*, organized around four elements—data and research, education and certification, workforce planning, and health and safety. The Agenda proposes a Workforce Technical Assistance Center that would aggregate data and facilitate research and communications on EMS workforce issues according to these elements.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Safety, Jeff Lindsey, Chair

Thomas Judge presented on the Air Medical issues of growth, patient selection, evidence based usage, regulation, methodology, cost efficacy, and safety.

Identified safety focus areas and will

- 1) Compile safety related literature
- 2) Prepare a white paper to address key safety issues

Systems, Kyle Gorman, Chair

Selected sixteen guiding principles for EMS system design and will

- 1) Establish a bibliography on EMS design

- 2) Create a matrix of sources for each principle
- 3) Develop core issues from those sources

Oversight, Analysis, and Research, Ritu Sahni, Chair

Completed a Medline search, compiled a list of trends in publications on medical errors, and developed a bibliography on patient safety and medical errors. These findings will be used to

- 1) Continue to promote the Culture of Safety initiative
- 2) Draft a publishable whitepaper to describe the problem of patient safety

Education and Workforce, Kevin Staley, Chair

Proposed standard definitions for certification, licensure, and credentialing and reported on issues related to a lack of standardization. The committee encouraged NEMSAC to

- 1) Continue to support nationwide implementation of the *EMS Agenda for the Future*
- 2) Assist States with drafting model legislation and implementation issues
- 3) Provide a regular progress report on implementation of the *EMS Education Agenda for the Future: A Systems Approach* to the National EMS Advisory Council
- 4) Support EMS Education Agenda related research on the delivery, efficacy, and outcomes of EMS education

Finance, Gary Wingrove for Kurt Krumperman, Chair

Compiled sources on cost-saving EMS interventions and identified continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP) and therapeutic cooling as potential cost-saving measures. With these findings the committee will

- 1) Draft a paper demonstrating prehospital care improves patient outcomes
- 2) Provide information to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) where research demonstrates acute care savings at increased cost to EMS

PROCESS CLARIFICATIONS

Council members revised the Committee Reporting Template to clarify several sections and assist committees preparing to report findings to the NEMSAC.

**NEMSAC Updates, Minutes,
and Notices:**

WWW.EMS.GOV