

National Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council Meeting

January 29 - 30, 2013

Executive Summary

Members in Attendance

Aarron Reinert, Chair
Arthur Cooper
Carol Cunningham
Daniel Patterson
David Lucas
Dennis Eisnach
Gary Wingrove
Jim McPartlon
John Sinclair

Jon Kuo
Joseph Wright
Katrina Altenhofen
Ken Miller
Kyle Gorman
Leaugeay Barnes
Manuel Chavez
Marc Goldstone
Michael Hastings

Nick Nudell
Patricia Dukes
Roger Band
Scott Somers
Terry Mullins
Thomas Esposito
Thomas Judge

Federal Representatives in Attendance

Drew Dawson, Designated Federal Official

Meeting Proceedings, January 29, 2013

The National Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council (NEMSAC) met January 29 - 30, 2013 at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel in Washington, D.C. The meeting began at 8:00 a.m. EDT.

Drew Dawson, of NHTSA's Office of EMS, opened the meeting by thanking NEMSAC members for their ongoing efforts in EMS. He told council members that the NHTSA continues to respect and consider NEMSAC's recommendations when looking at its budget and strategies, and asked that the NEMSAC try to keep recommendations as realistic and actionable as possible. He also urged members to submit their committee work in a timely manner so that it may be shared with the Federal Interagency Committee on EMS (FICEMS) and allow the public to comment on NEMSAC activities.

Mr. Dawson informed the council that NHTSA's budget status was uncertain as of the current meeting and that NHTSA will be in continuing resolution until March 2013, which keeps the budget level. He advised council members to not expect many new resources.

In order to highlight the activities of the NEMSAC's recommendations, NHTSA has published a summary report reflecting much of the work done by NEMSAC from 2010 to 2012. A hard copy of the document was distributed to the council, and an electronic copy has been posted online.

Mr. Dawson announced that in an effort to increase transparency, at the beginning of each NEMSAC meeting, council members are encouraged to verbally disclose any real or potential conflicts of

interest. After members discussed their potential conflicts, Chair Aaron Reinert reminded all that if they had any questions on conflicts of interest to ask him or Mr. Dawson, as outlined in the Bylaws.

Mr. Dawson explained that although the new NHTSA charter had faced some delays, he still expects the process of transitioning the council to statutory status to be completed relatively quickly. He advised members to expect the next meeting to be of the statutory council.

NHTSA and Other Federal Activities

Cathy Gotschall discussed implementation of a model evidence-based guideline process that was approved by FICEMS and NEMSAC. NHTSA and the Emergency Medical Services for Children program are piloting the implementation of a guideline in five states and exploring the long-term feasibility of the model. Ms. Gotschall also gave an update on the Emerging Issues in EMS and 9-1-1 project, where three white papers are currently underway: successful strategies for research in prehospital care, EMS as an essential service/public good, and emerging digital technologies for EMS & 9-1-1.

Noah Smith provided an update on the status of a 2009 NEMSAC recommendation on improving the quality of EMS patient-level data. Currently, a two year project has been developed to measure and improve the quality of existing data. Both Nick Nudell and Gary Wingrove are principal investigators on the project.

Mr. Dawson announced that Ed Gabriel, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response at HHS is the new Chair of FICEMS, and the vice-chair was Dr. Alex Garza from the DHS Office of Health Affairs. He then told the council that FICEMS plans to publish a high-level five year strategic plan in which priorities will be based on previous NEMSAC recommendations and public input.

Roberto Mussenden from the Federal Communications Commission provided the Federal Partner Update, where he discussed narrow banding, the process of requiring all VHF and UHF Public Safety and industrial/business land mobile radio systems to migrate to at least 12.5 kHz efficiency technology.

The council then discussed the National EMS Culture of Safety Strategy. Dr. Daniel Patterson and his task group were asked to draft comments on the current draft of the document. The group expressed concern over the following issues: usefulness of the document's layout; who the target audience is and how the context reflects that audience; and the document's attempt at making the case for a strategy, and education as a key component of safety. The council discussed the comments, and decided to table the conversation until the next day.

Work Group Presentations

The NEMSIS work group's interim advisory, *NEMSIS: Achieving its Full Potential for Advancing Healthcare*, had minor changes in its first recommendation, and discussion of the document was deferred to the next day.

The leadership interim advisory *Leadership and Developmental Planning in EMS* was presented by Leaugeay Barnes and Marc Goldstone. A minor change was proposed and accepted by the workgroup.

Dr. Arthur Cooper presented his task group's major questions for consideration, and proposed answers, on the *Education Agenda for the Future: A System's Approach*.

Kyle Gorman discussed the goals of the Process task group, which included better measuring the outcomes of the work groups, examining the process of how work is completed by the council, and encouraging more frequent and broader public input.

Several members of the audience spoke during the public comment period. Margaret Fowke from the National Weather Service, and an EMT in Silver Spring, Maryland, told the council that meteorologists had developed interesting weather apps for cars. These apps were obtaining impressive photos, and she asked the council to consider how EMS could become involved.

Don Lundy, president of the National Association of EMTs, asked for participation in EMS on the Hill Day, which provides an opportunity for the EMS community to better inform, and interact with, Congress. He also informed the council that physical fitness guidelines were released, and would be presented at *EMS Today*.

Tom Gianni, from the Maryland Highway Safety Office, stressed the importance of work on the NEMSIS data project.

Dia Gainor, from the National Association of EMS Officials, asked that the NEMSAC make documents available at an earlier time for the public to review.

Bill Goddard, fire chief of Howard County, Maryland, thanked the council for its contributions to fire and ambulance services.

The day concluded with Mr. Reinert asking the committees to consider NEMSAC's priorities, strategies, and goals. He asked the council to consider what the council wants to do, what it does not want to do, and what does a "win" look like?

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m. Committee meetings were held from 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Meeting Proceedings – January 30, 2013

The second day of the NEMSAC meeting began at 8:00 a.m. EDT.

Dr. Patterson presented revisions made to the Culture of Safety strategy response. After a brief discussion of the revisions, the council motioned that the response be accepted as a letter to NHTSA, which would then be provided to the contractor working on the strategy. The motion was approved.

Next, Dr. Ken Miller presented revisions made to the NEMSIS interim advisory. A motion was made to approve the advisory and move it to final status, with revisions. The motion was approved.

The leadership task group's interim advisory was discussed and there was considerable debate over the role of education in fostering leadership. Mr. Reinert encouraged council members to participate in the leadership task group's conference calls. No motion was made on the document.

Dr. Cooper reintroduced the education agenda questions and answers document. The council motioned for the draft document to be accepted in its current form, but agreed that changes would be made in the future after receiving additional public input. The motion was approved.

The fatigue task group's interim advisory *Fatigue in Emergency Medical Services* was presented by Dr. Patterson. A motion was introduced to move the advisory from interim to final status. The motion was approved.

Mr. Gorman then presented a table of contents for a future NEMSAC Process Guide. The table of contents gave insight into what the guide would include such as: the relationship between NEMSAC, NHTSA, the DOT, and FICEMS; the impact of recommendations; the meeting agenda; the work of the committees; and the measurement of outputs.

Mr. Reinert reintroduced the topic of NEMSAC's priorities, strategies and values. Council members then introduced value statements they felt should be adhered to by the NEMSAC. After a lengthy list was created, Patricia Dukes was asked to lead a work group on narrowing down the list of value statements, and procuring further feedback.

Ms. Gainor asked, as a public comment, that copies of new documents be provided to the public, as opposed to only having them viewed on screen during the meeting. She also asked if the Culture of Safety strategy response letter included a request for a definition of EMS to be included. It did.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m. EDT.