**National Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council (NEMSAC)**

**January 14–16, 2020**

**Executive Summary**

## Approval of September 17–19, 2019, NEMSAC Meeting Minutes

A motion carried to approve these minutes (with a few corrections).

## Federal Liaison Updates

* Department of Transportation: The Office of EMS (OEMS) published the 2019 update of its activities and a request for information on the National Emergency Medical Services Information System (NEMSIS).

### Department of Homeland Security (DHS): The DHS Chief Medical Officer will develop medical policy and guidance for all DHS operational departments that will allow emergency medical technicians (EMTs) to serve as EMTs in all department components.

* Department of Health and Human Services (HHS): Many lessons learned from Hurricane Maria are being used to respond to the recent earthquakes in Puerto Rico. HHS is seeking candidates for the Hospital Preparedness Program (HPP) Director.
* U.S. Fire Administration: The National Fire Academy provides several EMS-specific academic programs that are available to constituents at no cost.
* Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA): HRSA has launched or will launch the second EMS Agency Assessment and the Pediatric Readiness in the Emergency Department Assessment.
* U.S. Forest Service: The Forest Service is developing an EMS program for Forest Service employees, cooperators, and partner agency employees.

**Get Ahead of Stroke**

The Get Ahead of Stroke Campaign educates EMS professionals about assessment and triage of patients with severe stroke. The campaign has developed the Stroke Scales for EMS mobile app for EMS educators and providers.

### **Safe Transport of Children**

The Society of Automotive Engineering Standards International will develop standards for products used to transport pediatric patients in ambulances.

**Federal Interagency Committee on Emergency Medical Services (FICEMS) Strategic Plan**

To develop its new 5-year strategic plan, FICEMS recently released a white paper that summarizes progress in implementing the goals and objectives of the previous plan, changes in EMS and 911 systems, and key considerations for the next strategic plan.

**Public Comment**

The major topic raised by members of the public was whether an associate or bachelor’s degree should be required to enter the EMS profession. Several speakers noted that such a requirement would be a barrier to hiring new EMS practitioners.

## Prehospital Pediatric Readiness

Pediatric Readiness in EMS Systems will ask EMS agencies whether they have a designated individual who coordinates pediatric emergency care and a requirement that EMS personnel demonstrate the correct use of pediatric-specific equipment. An online survey will launch in 2023, and improvement collaboratives will help agencies improve their scores.

**Ongoing National Health Traffic Safety Administration Projects**

* OEMS is updating the guidelines for field triage of injured patients.
* As of December 2019, almost 50 million records were submitted to NEMSIS.
* OEMS and the National Association of State 911 Administrators issued an annual progress report on the results of a survey of state and territorial 911 systems.
* A writing team is developing the revised national EMS education standards and accompanying instructional guidelines.
* The nomenclature report will be finalized in March 2020.
* OEMS is looking at issues of members of the public from taking videos of EMS practitioners as they care for a patient.

**NEMSAC Chair and Vice-Chair Elections**

NEMSAC elected Mr. Robbins for another term as NEMSAC Chair and Ms. Montera for another term as NEMSAC Vice Chair.

**National Assessments**

The National Association of State EMS Officials is launching the 2020 National EMS Assessment and an evaluation of emerging state systems of care (with an initial focus on stroke and ST-elevation myocardial infarction).

## NEMSAC Biennial Report Review

A motion carried to approve NEMSAC’s latest biennial report (with a few edits).

## Topics for Future Consideration by NEMSAC Committees

#### The Profession Safety Committee will consider developing an advisory on dangerous patient behavior, including elopement. The Preparedness and Education Committee will develop an advisory on 911 dispatch if time permits. NEMSAC will form ad hoc committees to explore the potential to develop advisories on ambulance crash investigations and on human trafficking. Another potential advisory topic is loss of a license in one state because of a felony but not another.

## EMS Agency Inclusion in Disaster Preparedness Training

The Medical Response to Overwhelming No-Notice Trauma course immerses participants into a simulated high-stress event. This course will soon be extended to EMS personnel.

## Hospital Preparedness Program

HPP offers funding to improve patient outcomes, minimize the need for supplemental state and federal resources during emergencies, and enable rapid recovery. HPP-funded coalitions must include EMS agencies to receive funding because of the key role of EMS in disaster response.

## Greeting from NHTSA’s Acting Administrator

The First Responder Safety Technology Pilot Program will equip emergency response vehicles, transit vehicles, and highway infrastructure with vehicle-to-everything (V2X) technologies to help prevent tragic crashes and improve safety for vulnerable road users.

## Community Response to Drug Overdose

The objectives of Community Response to Drug Overdose (CReDO) include integrating medical, law enforcement, and drug prevention efforts for overdose clusters and spikes and aligning efforts across federal agencies and with state, local, and private partners.

## Applied Research and Technology at the U.S. Fire Administration

The National Fire Data Center conducts research to reduce firefighter line-of-duty and civilian fatalities and injuries and to support the U.S. Fire Administration’s EMS initiatives. The National Fire Academy offers EMS-related management, operations, and safety courses.

**Action on Proposed NEMSAC Advisories**

NEMSAC voted to grant final approval to the following interim advisories:

#### EMS System Financing Advisory 2019 Update

#### Connected and Automated Vehicle Implications for Ambulances

#### NHTSA OEMS as the Central Repository for All EMS Provider Safety and Wellness Data

#### Emergency Triage, Treat, and Transport (ET3) Model

#### Rural and Volunteer EMS Recruitment and Retention

#### Mitigation of Direct Violence Against EMS Professionals

#### Pediatric Emergency Care Coordinator (PECC) for Emergency Medical Services

NEMSAC voted to grant interim approval to the following advisories:

#### Telehealth as a Strategy for EMS Care

#### Mental Health and Wellness for the EMS Provider and Their Partners in Public Safety

#### EMS Resource Allocation and Distribution During Disasters

#### The Equitable Patient Care Committee will continue to revise its advisory, Reducing Social Inequities in EMS Through a National Out-of-Hospital Cardiac Arrest Registry.