



IAFC EMS Section Liaison Report

Submit within 2 weeks to klasala@iafc.org and copy to mcevoymike@aol.com

Liaison organization/committee name: EMS Economics Committee

IAFC representative name: Chris Shimer

Meeting date and location (note if conference call): September 27 via Zoom

Key issues/actions of relevance to IAFC: No significant issues. This was an open meeting for NAEMT members – an overview of the committee was provided and each member/liaison provided a brief overview of the organization they represent.

Any recommendations for action by EMS Section Board of Directors? No

If travel involved, who funded this trip? N/A

Date and location of the next meeting: The notes stated October 25, but that meeting was canceled.

Date submitted: November 23

Email contact for questions/follow up: rcshimer@me.com

EMS Economics Open Committee Meeting
Tuesday, September 27, 2022 at 2 pm CT
Zoom Virtual Meeting

In attendance: Matt Zavadsky (Chair), Tim Dienst, Dennis Rowe, Matt Streger, Mike Thomas, Doug Kupas (TA), Guy Dansie (NASEMO), Jim Finger (AAA), Jerry Overton (IAED), Chris Shimer (IAFC), Caleb Ward (AAP), and Melissa Trumbull (

Meeting Notes:

1. Welcome and Call to Order – Chair Matt Zavadsky called the meeting to order. The Chairman welcomed the NAEMT members attending the open meeting. He introduced himself, then the committee members and liaisons.
 - Vice Chair: Jon Washko
 - Members: Tim Dienst, Christopher Hanson, John Hitchens, Kim Holman, Dennis Rowe, Matthew Streger, Mike Thomas, and Jason White.
 - Technical Advisors: James Dachos, Public Consulting Group (PCG); Doug Kupas, MD
 - Liaisons: Guy Dansie, NASEMSO; Jim Finger, AAA; Jerry Overton, IAED; Jimmy Pierson, AIMHI; Robert 'Chris' Shimer, IAFC; David Tan, MD, NAEMSP; and Caleb Ward, MB BChir, MPH, FAAP, AAP.

The committee advises the NAEMT Board on strategies and actions to increase the economic strength and resiliency of EMS through both revenue enhancements and operational efficiencies. Responsibilities include:

- Reviewing, analyzing and providing comment to proposed changes in federal and state legislation and/or regulation impacting EMS funding.
- Developing and implementing strategies to advocate for increased EMS funding.
- Identifying and disseminating strategies for EMS agencies to implement new services and roles to enhance financial resiliency.
- Researching and educating EMS agencies on opportunities for operational efficiencies.
- Reviewing and developing comments to proposed industry standards and quality measures.

The committee has engaged in the following projects this year: COVID-19 Waiver Utilization, a Lights & Sirens joint statement and live webinar, developing a national survey on operational EMS economic models and analyzing cost data (GEMT) with the Public Safety Group. In addition, committee leadership is working with EMS stakeholders to address EMS economic issues and other challenges in EMS.

2. Update on Ambulance Staffing and Resources Initiative – The initiative was developed out of an EMS stakeholder meeting at the 2021 AAA Annual Meeting where stakeholders wanted to address the immediate workforce shortage. The stakeholder group consists of the fire service, AAA, NAEMT, IAED and NASEMSO. Upon the group's exploration of the issues, they discovered there was no national guidance or data on staffing and resourcing of personnel per EMS response. There is a need for evidence-based guidelines, utilizing NEMSIS, IAED, PCG, State and high-performing EMS agency data, to make informed staffing decisions to conserve the EMS workforce. NREMT has offered one of their fellows to analyze the data for the stakeholder group. The Chairman recognized the work of the VT Medical Director on his initiative on ambulance staffing. The VT MD will be invited to present on VT's staffing model. A recommended workforce guidance will be developed on staffing and resourcing for EMS.

A guest inquired whether the staffing requirements for STEMI and stroke have been addressed by the group. The Chairman reported they will utilize the data and evidence-based feedback to address as a medical dispatch priority.

3. Committee Initiatives and Tasks

a. Review of National Survey Questions on Operational Economic Models in EMS (*see supporting document*) – NAEMT staff shared the draft questions on Zoom. The Chairman and Dr. Ward asked the full committee to review each question and provide feedback. The committee provided the following recommendations:

- States allowed for alternative staffing structures to respond to the pandemic. Recommend pulling outcome data to analyze against pre-pandemic staffing configurations.
- Q9: Clarify the cost change for personnel wages and benefits.
- Q11: Clarify the ambulance acquisition costs
- New Question: Survey mutual aid in/out utilizing a table format with percentages.
- New Question: Survey equipment and supplies cost and ambulance availability.

The survey will be released around the first week of November and collect response throughout the entire month.

b. PCG Analysis of GEMT data – James Dachos was not present and will update committee at next meeting.

4. Upcoming Events

- a. [NAEMT Annual Meeting and EMS World Expo](#): October 10-14 in Orlando, FL
- b. [NAEMT Political Academy: How to Run for Public Office – And Win!](#) - December 6 at 1 pm CT (Live webinar)

5. Next meeting – October 25 at 2 pm CT