Liaison organization/committee name: EMS 3.0 Committee
IAFC representative name: Chris Shimer
Meeting date and location (note if conference call): August 29, 2019 via conference call
Key issues/actions of relevance to IAFC: None at this time
Any recommendations for action by EMS Section Board of Directors? No recommendations at this time
If travel involved, who funded this trip? N/A
Date and location of the next meeting: September 24 via conference call
Date submitted: September 16, 2019
Email contact for questions/follow up: rcshimer@me.com
Notes from the call on the following pages
Thursday, August 29, 2019, 12:00 - 1:00 pm Central Time
NAEMT EMS 3.0 Committee Call

In attendance: Jim DiTienne (NAEMSO Liaison), Matt Zavadsky (Chair), Chris Schimer (IAFC Liaison), Mark Babson, Bryan Nelson, Asbel Montes (AAA Liaison), Dr. Greg Mears, Jason Scheiderer, Chris Hanson, Mark Calabrese, Reg Allen (AAA Liaison), Dr. Doug Kupas (Technical Advisor), Dr. Kevin Munjal (Technical Advisor), Melissa McNally, Sherry Graham (Guest), Pamela Lane (NAEMT Staff), and Melissa Trumbull (NAEMT Staff),

Meeting Notes:
1. EMS Innovation
   a. Update on ET3 Model
      i. Summary of CMS Ambulance Open Door Webinar – The webinar did not reveal anything new. Questions that CMMI could not immediately answer on webinar are being posted on their website.

      Dr. Mears reported CMMI is going to utilize NEMSIS data. They want data on all patient interactions, but not sure it is legal to request. Previous CMMI Innovation awardees were required to look at additional patient information. Chris Hanson reported TMF has been asked about Medicare Advantage patients and in general all source lines. NEMSQA may not have a role within ET3.

      ii. Informal survey of agencies on MIH-CP listserv – NAEMT has conducted an informal survey of the MIH-CP and NAEMT leadership list to see how many agencies planned to apply for ET3. Overall responses received were 4:1 in favor of NOT applying. Of those applying, they vary in demographic and reflect all EMS delivery models. An ET3 question is also part of the non-traditional EMS services survey being released soon.

      CMMI asked for feedback on our survey results. NAEMT has provided results and responses on why agencies reported they were not applying. According to CMMI, to-date they have received 125 applications (not necessarily 125 agencies applied). CMMI is hoping for 250+ applications.

      Asbel asked about inquiring about payer source of ET3 applicants and reported that less than 1% from Medicare Fee for Service payer source at Acadian. Matt reported that less than 50% ‘after hour patients’ were Medicaid payer source at MedStar.

2. Legislative/Regulatory Issues
   a. Ambulance Cost Collection
      i. Summary of CMS Ambulance Open Door Webinar (see supporting documents)
ii. Comment Working Group of SMEs on Proposed Rule - A workgroup of subject matter experts reflecting all delivery models from all demographics is developing a comment to the proposed rule release by CMS on ambulance cost collection. National EMS stakeholder associations are also drafting comments. The national stakeholders will share comments with each other to identify common themes for highlighting. The NAEMT working group will share their comment with the committee once it is submitted. It has been brought to the attention of review groups to look at whole document, not just ambulance cost collection because there are other sections that impact EMS. Asbel will share general themes from AAA on ambulance cost reporting for sharing with committee.

b. Update on Surprise Billing - There has been a surge of congressional activity relating to the various surprise billing proposals. Three major bills have emerged:

- The No Surprises Act, introduced by the leaders of the House Energy and Commerce Committee Representatives Frank Pallone (D-NJ) and Greg Walden (R-OR).
- The Stopping the Outrageous Practice (STOP) of Surprise Medical Bills Act of 2019 (S 1531), introduced by Senators Bill Cassidy (R-LA), Michael Bennet (D-CO), Todd Young (R-IN), Maggie Hassan (D-NH), Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) and Tom Carper (D-DE)
- The Lower Health Care Costs Act (S 1895), introduced by the leaders of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee

The House No Surprises act has been referenced and seen movement as of late. State legislatures and regulatory bodies are also exploring surprise billing. Ground ambulance remain out of legislative language but if delivering air ambulance service, need to be engaged.

3. Proposed revision of National EMS Education Standards

i. Requested NAEMT Organizational Comments (see supporting documents) - National EMS Stakeholders were asked to provide initial comments on EMS Education Standards before opening public comment. A working group was formed to prepare comments. Attached is the letter and the actual comments submitted by NAEMT prior to public comment. An October 3 meeting has been scheduled for national EMS stakeholder to express stakeholder views. Susan Bailey will be representing NAEMT.

Chris Hanson offered his expertise to NAEMT. He is working on a paper to compare EMS education against healthcare education for better alignment, additional funding, and inclusion of additional focuses (safety, etc).
ACTION: NAEMT staff to connect Chris Hanson with Susan Bailey and staff composing comments.

Request for Committee Member Comments to Public Open Comment – Due by September 13 - Executive Director Pam Lane sent an email on Matt’s behalf requesting review and comments from the EMS 3.0 committee members, other NAEMT committees and Councils. NAEMT staff will compile the comments to submit on behalf of NAEMT for public comment. AAA and NAEMSP is exploring the possibility of submitting comments but have not decided if they will have official comments.

4. NAEMT EMS 3.0 Initiatives
   a. EMS Finance Webinars – Hosted by NAEMT and AIMHI focused on the economics of EMS.
      i. Summary of first webinar “How EMS is Financed” - The first webinar secured 316 participants, a sixty-one percent (61%) attendance rate based on those that confirmed their registration. The webinar was hosted by NAEMT and AIMHI. The panelists were Chip Decker of Richmond Ambulance Authority and Matt Zavadsky of MedStar. The webinar discussed the different ways in which EMS systems are funded and explain how different payer combinations impact an EMS agency’s finances. The audience was very engaged with a multitude of question. The panelists are addressing any questions not answered on webinar and will post on the host organizations’ websites. Attendees will receive a copy of the recording, non-attendees will be able to access the webinar through the RECERT online education platform.

      ii. 2nd webinar “What Does EMS Really Cost?” – Scheduled for September 23 at 1 pm CT. The panelists are Committee Vice Chair Jonathan Washko, Rick Lewis, Battalion Chief of South Metro Fire in Colorado, and Matt. The webinar will discuss:
           • EMS agency costs drivers, including staffing, benefits, service level, readiness, utilization, equipment, uncompensated care and other expenses that agencies must cover as part of daily operations;
           • How geography, population density, and other factors impact EMS agency expenses;
           • What types of calls are the most expensive, and why; and
           • How the cost of service impacts EMTs and paramedics.

An Eblast from NAEMT on the webinar was distributed yesterday with access to register.
iii. 3rd webinar “The Financial Anatomy of an EMS Response” – Scheduled for October 30 at 1 pm CT. Field providers will be panelist focused on assessments, insurance, demographics, etc. addressing billable vs non-billable.

5. Committee EMS 3.0 Projects
   a. Update on National Survey of EMS Agencies on Payments for Non-Traditional Services - The survey will be released next week on September 4 to targeted MIH-CP/EMS 3.0 lists. The survey is only 9 questions. The survey will be sent to committee by end of this week to review for any glitches or issues before public release. Chris Hanson reported his IT department at TMF is updating the program section on MIH-LAN to be able to upload survey when released.

   b. Update on CMS Cost Based Reimbursement Proposed Rules Comment - After discussion within the working group and recommendation by National Rural Health Association, NAEMT did not submit comments.

   c. Interoperability Standards Advisory (ISA) Review and Comment – Thank you to Dr. Mears for volunteering to review and provide recommended comments for the committee’s review. Dr. Mears is about three-quarters the way through the document and will distribute to committee.

   d. Update on Paramedic to Physician Assistant Transition Gap Analysis - Melissa McNally provided initial review. Thank you to Jason, Dr. Kupas and his Geisinger co-worker for their work on the issue. NAEMT Board member Bruce Evans will be exploring with licensing boards and higher education institutions.

6. Upcoming Events and Meetings
   a. 2019 Community Paramedicine Conference: September 8-10, 2019 in Charleston, SC
   b. NAEMT Annual Meeting: October 14-16, 2019 in New Orleans, SC
      i. EMS 3.0 Committee Meeting: October 15 from 830 – 1000 am
         All committee members and liaisons were sent a calendar invite for the meeting and the NAEMT General Membership Meeting and Awards Presentation followed by the NAEMT Membership Reception. The agenda is being finalized and provided to committee prior to September meeting. We hope committee liaisons will be able to join us or at least send a representative from your organization to the meeting. A discussion idea was proposed for NAEMT, NASEMSO and state EMS associations to discuss how state innovations are being prevented by legislation/regulations. A paper written by James
Hodge and a fifty-state analysis produced by Jonathan Wright address this issue.

7. Next Meeting – September 24 at 2 pm CT