

Traffic Records Coordinating Committee Meeting Minutes
May 21, 2003
3rd Floor Conference Room at UNC HSRC

Present: Kevin Lacy, Bill Stout, Bill Hunter, Brad Hibbs, Rosa Gill, Sharon Schiro, Susan Dyson, Tony Ku, Dwayne Tharpe, Carol Martell, and Eric Rodgman.

Began meeting at 9:30 AM.

Welcome:

Kevin Lacy welcomed everyone and thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. Kevin updated the committee on three action items. The first was that Tony Ku was present and was well under way in completing the reauthorization. The second was that Kevin, Doug Robertson, Don Nail, and others were active on the NC Traffic Safety Executive committee. This committee could use is to present recommendations and provide information. The third item was that Dr. Herb Garrison of ECU had set the goal of improved data as part of the NC Strategic HS Plan. Brad Hibbs added that subcommittees could be important in setting priorities, sharing information, and presenting specific task requests. Cliff Braam from DOT was working on the August 2003 meeting.

Kevin continued the meeting with further discussion of the proposed mission statement for the committee. One grammatical error was noted & corrected. Susan Dyson asked what is the purpose and meaning of the language in the mission statement -- Kevin and others provided a basic overview of their understanding of the vision described in the statement. Brad noted that there was still a major concern about the difference between the crash fatality counts from NC and from FARS. The current perception of NC data in Washington is a problem. He noted that the standards for the NC crash data were adopted at the last NC executive committee meeting. Bill Hunter mentioned that HSIS has had a consistently good reputation. In Pennsylvania, several key DOT types retired and that the quality of their data fell off as a result.

A motion to accept the mission statement was raised, a second was added and the committee present voted that the mission statement be accepted with the one correction.

Adopted mission statement for the TRCC committee.

" To establish and maintain a level of coordination between stake holders to maximize utilization; improve functionality; improve data accuracy and linkages; protect privacy; and to minimize redundancies in traffic records systems in order to improve highway safety and to better accomplish individual agencies' goals."

Keynote Presentation from Sharon Schiro

Sharon Schiro provided an overview presentation of the three important databases from OEMS. The North Carolina Trauma Registry (NCTR) data, the Information System for the State Trauma Advisory Committee (ISSAC) data, and the Prehospital Medical Information System (PreMIS). Sharon noted that these databases are designed to be linked for trauma system PI, so that a person gaining medical attention for an injury can be tracked from the scene of an event via ambulance to the ED/hospital/trauma center. The procedure whereby the patient has an ID wrist band put on at the scene and tracked through their various medical facilities has been problematic. The bands are expensive, some facilities remove them, and they are not always put on.

Key issues: The capture of alcohol information has been affected by the legality of getting paid. If the person has been drinking (has a BAC > 0.0), then the workers comp insurance may not pay/reimburse for their services. **SOMEONE** reported that hospitals do not allow the Law Enforcement agents to obtain BAC results on their patients. He also reported that safety belt use as indicated by the EMS personnel is basically self-reported by the patient -- it may be more reliable then the indication from the crash report.

The NCTR data includes demographics, scene information (limited), ED admission and assessment, diagnosis, procedures, E-codes, hospital, and disposition information. The ISSAC data is dominantly

information that is on the UB-92 form. It has demographics, admission/discharge dates and times, diagnosis and procedure codes, and disposition information.. PreMIS data has demographic data, ICD-9 location codes data, and key times such as time ambulance called, arrived at crash site, and time arrived at ED/hospital, assessment, symptoms, complaint description, treatment, procedures, and disposition.

In terms of timing, PreMIS data are collected real-time, and is stored in DB2 (to be moved to Oracle for Version 2). The NCTR data are downloaded to the State every 3 months, is recorded in Fox Pro, and is moved to SAS for analysis purposes. The ISSAC data are currently updated daily and are in SAS, but may be moved to Oracle. In performing a test of probabilistic matching with a small subset of the NC Medical Examiner data to a small subset of the NCTR data, an 85% hit rate was achieved. Kevin Lacy noted that in order to match data, abide by the HIPAA requirements, and that the hospital/medical staff like Sharon would have to perform any (probabilistic) linking of data.

There is a group collecting the ED data with no personal identifiers. Sharon noted that there were now 11 NC trauma centers – all level 1/2/3. Contacts for these 3 databases are: PreMIS – Charlotte Weaver, NCTR – Sharon, and ISSAC – Sharon. Susan Dyson mentioned that when she provides data, she must mask 2 out of 3 of the following data points: zip code, diagnosis, or the hospital code identifier due to HIPAA restrictions..

Discussion: It was mentioned that the ambulance call run numbers were being recorded on the crash report – Eric will check on this. As to the HIPAA regulations, Eric will check with Adrian Shelton at UNC, the legal counsel who can answer these types of questions. Another source of information may be Ike Avery in Raleigh.

Kevin mentioned that Tony Ku had made progress on his NC NHTSA Traffic Records Inventory Survey resource data efforts – more on that at the next meeting. Susan Dyson agreed to share information about the Hospital Discharge Data she is responsible for at the next meeting.

Kevin suggested that he, Tony Ku, and Jeff Rom should be part of a Traffic Records Resource Group. Rosa would be responsible for Driver License, Vehicle Registration, and the Crash Report data. Kevin would be responsible for the GIS, Merge, Intersection, and Pavement data. Rosa noted that there was a TRACS software group composed of 23 states. Iowa was the state doing the training.

Next meeting proposed – August 20, 2003 at HSRC in Chapel Hill.

Close/Thanks:

Kevin thanked everyone for being presence and their participation.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:30 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Eric Rodgman.

Action Items:

- 1) HSRC will host the next meeting in the conference room 9:30 till 11:30 AM on Wednesday August 20, 2003.
- 2) Eric Rodgman will send out the minutes with the TRCC web site noted, scan reports for ambulance call run numbers, and contact Adrian Shelton on HIPAA regulations.
- 3) Susan Dyson of the NC Sheps Center will present an overview of the NC Hospital Patient Discharge Data at the next meeting.
- 4) Tony Ku will update the committee on his NC NHTSA Traffic Records Inventory Survey efforts.
- 5) Eric will send out reminders and an agenda for that next meeting.