



The Pony Express

Headline News

Introducing the Pony Express

Welcome to the inaugural issue of the official EMSC newsletter, The Pony Express. The name was chosen for this publication based on the idea that information should be timely and efficient, and should flow in all directions among EMSC partners and stakeholders across Texas. Partnership is meaningless without collaboration, and collaboration is impossible without communication. It is our intent to provide a newsletter that is interesting and informative, and that creates a forum through which meaningful dialogue can begin.

As the EMSC State Partnership develops, there will be greater need to have true, real-time interactive capabilities. We are investigating several options that will meet those needs while ensuring participants' privacy and security. In the meantime, we will do our best to coordinate all network interaction. Click on the "[Mail Pouch](#)" link at the bottom of the page to provide feedback, submit articles, and network with other partners. We welcome and appreciate your ideas and suggestions about how to make this newsletter, or any EMSC communication, better.

Each edition of The Pony Express will include the Headline News (ideally chosen from articles submitted by the readers), the State Partnership Update, a section highlighting Best Practices in pediatric emergency care, and Upcoming Events. Let us know what you think.

State Partnership Update

Off to a Great Start

The new EMSC State Partnership, Texas is off to a great start. A lot has happened since the grant period officially started in March of this year. We are excited about the momentum the Partnership is building and about the possibilities that lie ahead for setting a new standard of excellence in pediatric emergency medical care in Texas.

[See Momentum on page](#)



EMSC Crew of the Year, 2009

Best Practices

A special thanks to the crews of Engine 13A, Ambulance 13A, Squad 62A, and Supervisor 50A of the Houston Fire Department for their outstanding professionalism and commitment to excellence. This group of was nominated by their organization for the first annual EMSC Crew of the Year Award. Their quick action, teamwork, and skill saved the life of a 13-year-old girl in cardiac arrest. The crew was honored with an awards luncheon at Fire Station 13 where they received plaques for their stations and individual certificates of appreciation provided by the EMSC State Partnership Texas with the generous support of Texas Children's Hospital's Pediatric Emergency Medicine group.

The vision of the EMSC State Partnership is that the EMSC Crew of the Year program will be expanded, with the help of our partners, to each region of the State. Please submit inquiries or Crew of the Year nominations to the [Mail Pouch](#).



EMSC State Partnership, TX

[Mail Pouch](#)

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Momentum

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It should be noted that a tremendous amount of work went into this project by Dr. Charles Macias and Dr. Manish Shah of Texas Children's Pediatric Emergency Medicine, and by a number of our partners around the state, long before the grant was awarded. Their efforts made the EMSC State Partnership possible.

We have accomplished several important milestones in the achievement of the [EMSC Performance Measures](#) :

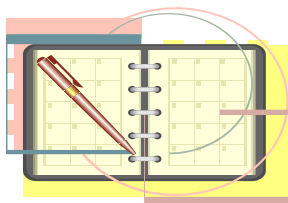
- All positions have been filled on the EMSC Advisory Committee (EAC), and our first teleconference was held in June. We have a fantastic group of professionals who are each dedicated to improving emergency care for pediatrics and are committed to supporting and promoting the EMSC priorities.
- The full-time EMSC Program Manager position has been filled. Tony Gilchrest will be coordinating the collaboration and activities of the Partnership from the office at Baylor College of Medicine's affiliate Texas Children's Hospital's PEM Section.
- The EMSC Advisory Committee has been incorporated as an integral component of the State EMS/Trauma System.
- We have begun the process of gathering and updating contact information for hospitals and EMS agencies around the state in preparation for next years surveys.

With the help of Billy Sladek of the [Texas EMS Conference](#), EMSC will have a booth at this years conference on Sunday, November 22nd from 10:00 am to 7:00 pm, and Monday, November 23rd from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. Please come by and visit with us. In addition, an article about the EMSC State Partnership will be published in the November issue of the Texas EMS Magazine, which will be distributed at the conference. Thanks go out to Editor Kelly Harrell for giving us space for the article.

Meanwhile, contacts have been and are continuing to be made with individuals and organizations across Texas in order to build a strong and effective network of EMSC partners and stakeholders. The positive and supportive response this office has received thus far has been overwhelming. Some of the partnerships we are developing include the 1) Texas Department of Public Safety, where we will be infusing an EMSC component into the Teenage Drinking and Driving programs with the regional offices; 2) the National Association of EMS Educators (NAEMSE), 3) Children's Hospital Association of Texas; 4) the Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for the EMS Professional (CoAEMSP); 5) Texas Parent to Parent (P2P), an association of parents of children with special needs; and 6) the Texas Ambulance Association.

The challenge now is for the EMSC State Partnership to learn how to best take advantage of the collaborative, finding common goals and establishing statewide priorities that can be achieved only through the collective efforts of the partnership as a unified body of professionals dedicated to improving emergency care for all children in Texas.

Upcoming Events



Mark Your Calendar

September 11, 2009: EMSC Advisory Committee Annual Meeting at the TPS Conference in Plano, Texas.

October 22, 2009: Stakeholders teleconference, 2:00 - 3:00 pm, call-in information forthcoming.

November 22-25, 2009: Texas EMS Conference. Look for the EMSC booth in the Exhibition Hall on the 22nd and 23rd.