

The Pony Express

Improving emergency medical care for children all across Texas



EMSC State Partnership, TX



EMSC

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Headline News



The EMSC State Partnership Texas wishes you a safe and happy New Year!

EMSC State Partnership Preparing for 2012 and Beyond

As 2011-2012 grant year winds to a close, the EMSC State Partnership is setting its sights on 2012-2013. The EMSC program, under the Health Resources and Services Administration's (HRSA) Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB), extended all State Partnership grants that are due to expire on February 29, 2012 including the Texas State Partnership Grant, which has been held by Baylor College of Medicine since March 1, 2009. Every state and territory, therefore, submitted a non-competing continuation progress report this year and will be applying for a competing grant renewal in the fall of 2012. The Texas State Partnership's progress report highlighted accomplishments over the past year and grant activities planned for the coming year.

Continuing education has continued to be a top priority, with the Partnership and Texas Parent to Parent (TxP2P) working with local hospitals, trauma systems, and educational institutions to provide *Assessment and Management of Children with Special Health Care Needs* in Lubbock, Austin, San Angelo, and Houston as well as partnering with Dr. Jenna Miller at Baylor College of Medicine to develop, administer, and evaluate a pediatric respiratory distress and failure module. In addition, the Partnership and its affiliates provided workshops and lectures at the Texas EMS Conference. Plans are currently underway to develop on-line training modules and regional on-site courses are now being scheduled for 2012.

Data from the 2010 EMS and Hospital surveys were analyzed and distributed to stakeholders along with a comparison of the Texas survey results with nationally aggregated data from the National EMSC Data Analysis Resource Center. This information has helped to (See 2012 and Beyond on Page 2)

Best Practices

**Texas Children's Hospital
EMS Center of Excellence
To Open Soon**



Paul Sirbaugh, D.O.

Representing a bold new step in partnership and collaboration between pediatric emergency medicine and prehospital emergency medical services, Texas Children's Hospital will soon open what is believed to be the nation's first ever pediatric EMS Center of Excellence (COE). The Center will be under the direction of Dr. Paul Sirbaugh, Texas Children's Hospital, Clinical Chief, Section of Pediatric Emergency Medicine, Department of Pediatrics, Baylor College of Medicine and Assistant Medical Director for the Houston Fire Department EMS Division, whose vision and passion for prehospital emergency care made the EMS COE possible.

The mission of the TCH EMS COE is to improve the practice of prehospital pediatric emergency medicine. Its vision is to create a culture of high quality service, innovation, and multi-disciplinary collaboration in prehospital pediatrics. This TCH EMS COE establishes partnerships among prehospital and hospital-based providers and between the community, families, and primary care physicians to enable advocacy that leads to policy-making and injury prevention, research that becomes translated into practice, education that improves patient care and clinical care that is evidence-based and family-centered as an extension of the health home to the prehospital setting.

As a standing partner with Texas Children's Hospital, the EMSC State Partnership will be working side-by-side with the EMS COE to expand on what has been accomplished locally, statewide and nationwide in the areas of advocacy, outreach, healthcare education, and research, to support the development of a regionalized, coordinated and accountable EMS infrastructure, and to cultivate both local and national leaders with expertise in prehospital pediatrics.



[Mail Pouch](#)

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Check out the EMSC State Partnership website at
www.bcm.edu/pediatrics/emsc

To remove your name from our mailing list, please [click here](#).

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2012 and Beyond

focus efforts to address specific areas of concern. For example, we have identified essential pediatric airway equipment missing on ambulances and, in response, have opened meaningful dialogue with stakeholders to make recommendations for amendments in the Texas Administrative Code governing EMS ambulances. Additionally, the State Partnership will soon be announcing the EMSC Essential Pediatric Airway Equipment Project aimed at helping to provide specific airway equipment to ambulance service providers through the Regional Advisory Councils.

The 2010 surveys also showed an overwhelming interest in evidence-based pediatric prehospital guidelines and access to pediatric on-line medical control from a base station at regional children's hospital. To address this need, the State Partnership applied for and was awarded supplemental funding from HRSA to contract the Texas Children's Hospital Evidence-Based Outcomes Center to conduct thorough literature review and analysis on selected pediatric prehospital protocol topics and produce summary reports for the creation of an on-line evidence-based pediatric prehospital protocol resource. The Partnership also met with stakeholders to discuss the potential for developing a regionalized system for 24 hour access to pediatric-specific on-line medical control, administered a survey of EMS ground transport personnel at the 2011 Texas EMS Conference, and is preparing a survey of all 9-1-1 service medical directors aimed at identifying barriers to universal access to pediatric on-line medical control, measure current utilization, and conduct a needs assessment from the medical directors' perspective.

Another priority of the Texas EMSC State Partnership in 2011 has been the development of a standardized system for the categorization or designation of hospitals capable of providing immediate stabilization and/or management of critically ill and injured children. The partnership has studied best practices from states that have implemented successful programs and conducted a working site visit with the EMSC program in Illinois. In addition, EMSC has partnered with Covenant Children's Hospital and Texas Tech University School of Medicine as they work to develop a demonstration project proposal for the EMSC State Partnership Regionalization of Care grant aimed at reaching beyond state borders to overcome barriers to specialized pediatric medical and trauma care. Such a system would incorporate many aspects of hospital and EMS system preparedness through the establishment of policies and procedures that would develop and institute an organized, preplanned, pre-event process that is well prepared to locally manage or immediately transport the injured or critically ill child without delay.

The EMSC State Partnership looks forward to facing the challenges in 2012, working together with its many partners and collaborators with a common goal of improving the access and quality of pediatric emergency care in Texas and across the nation.

EMSC State Partnership Update

EMSC Appropriations Update

(Reprinted from the EMSC QuickNews Special Announcements, December 22, 2011)

On Friday, December 16, the House of Representatives approved H.R. 2055, the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2012, which was also approved by the Senate on Saturday, December 17. This bill contains fiscal year 2012 funding for federal agencies under nine appropriations bills, including the Departments of Labor-Health and Human Services-Education bill. Specifically, H.R. 2055 provides \$21.369 million, or level funding, for the EMSC Program for the remainder of the fiscal year, ending on September 30, 2012. The President signed the bill into law on December 17.

Pediatric CE Opportunities

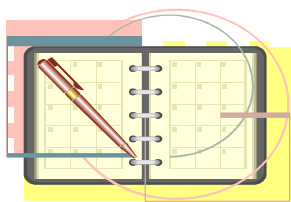
The EMSC State Partnership wishes to take this opportunity to say thanks to the dedicated individuals and their organizations that have partnered with us to bring pediatric continuing education to EMS and nursing professionals across the state. Without your help, the Partnership would not be able to provide high quality, locally driven pediatric training, and we are working hard, with your input, to continue to develop the EMSC Pediatric Continuing Education Program. Classes for 2012 are currently being scheduled. There is a variety of CE topics available and the Partnership will gladly work to deliver the programs needed in your region. For scheduling information, contact Program Manager Tony Gilcrest at 832-824-6028, or drop a note in the [Mail Pouch](#).

Final Thought

Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.

Nelson Mandela

Upcoming Events



Mark Your Calendar

- GETAC Committee Meetings—February 8-10, 2012
Austin, TX
- EMSC Advisory Committee—February 9, 2012
Austin, TX (Immediately following GETAC Committees)