

The Pony Express

Improving emergency medical care for children all across Texas



Vol. 3, Issue 6, January/February 2012

Headline News

EMSC Advisory Committee Welcomes New Family Representatives

The EMSC State Partnership proudly welcomes Debbie Wiederhold and Jeanine Pinner to the EMSC Advisory Committee. Debbie and Jeanine have teamed up to serve as the official family representatives to the EAC and the EMSC program in Texas. By unanimous decision, committee members voted to approve the dynamic duo for this important position during their regular quarterly meeting on February 9, 2012.

While they are the newest members of the advisory committee, Debbie and Jeanine are no strangers to EMSC. They have been involved with the State Partnership since 2009, helping to develop and teach the joint EMSC-[Texas Parent to Parent](#) course *Assessment and Management of Children with Special Health Care Needs* as well as providing support for the [Family Advocates Network](#) and ongoing efforts to achieve EMSC performance measures. In fact, Debbie and Jeanine, along with their sons Daniel and Jake, were the 2011 recipients of the [EMSC Champions for Children Award](#) for their unwavering commitment and dedication to the improvement of emergency care for children with special healthcare needs and for all children across the state of Texas.

Jeanine is the Training and Outreach Coordinator for Texas Parent to Parent (TxP2P) and a [Partners in Policymaking](#) Graduate, class of 2000. Debbie serves as Medical Education Residency Training Program (MEd Program) Coordinator and Resource Coordinator at TxP2P and is also a graduate of Partners in Policymaking. Together, the dynamic duo represents the very best in family advocacy and leadership and will work hard to assure a patient and family centered focus in all EMSC programs and projects in Texas.

Texas Medical Director Survey Underway

In response to the 2010 Emergency Medical Services for Children EMS Agency Survey, both rural and non-rural agencies reported that universally available on-line medical direction was absent up to 38% of the time when actual attempts were made to contact medical direction in the previous one-year period. However, 76% of non-rural and 77% of rural agencies responding to the survey indicated that they would be interested in having on-line medical direction available through a base station at their regional children's hospital.

In order to address the significant gaps in the universal availability of on-line medical direction and to identify possible barriers and potential solutions, the EMSC State Partnership is investigating this issue further. The *Texas Medical Director Survey* is intended to help identify possible causes of communication barriers in attempts to contact on-line medical direction as well as to provide a measure of the current utilization of pediatric-specific on-line medical control both regionally and state-wide, provide information on the perception of

(See Survey on Page 2)

Best Practices

EMSC Day May 23: EMSC Crew of the Year Nominations Underway

National EMS Week 2012 is May 20 thru May 26, and Wednesday, May 23 is set aside for National Emergency Medical Services for Children day. National EMS Week is an annual celebration of the dedication and commitment of EMS providers all over the country making differences in the lives of millions of Americans every day. It also provides us with an opportunity to bring together EMS agencies and their local communities to focus attention on illness and injury prevention and raise awareness about issues important to the continued development and improvement of EMS and Trauma systems.

National EMSC Day places a spotlight on the delivery of high-quality emergency medical care for children, focusing on the unique needs of critically ill or injured pediatric patients and the challenges faced by EMS professionals in meeting those needs. Hundreds of communities around the Nation are planning special events to honor the men and women who provide emergency care to our children and to raise awareness about safety and prevention and the ongoing need to improve and expand specialized care for children in the prehospital setting.

In honor of EMSC Day 2012, the Texas EMSC State Partnership is now accepting nominations for the fourth annual EMSC Crew of the Year Award. This award is granted to an EMS crew or station who has displayed outstanding care for a child in an emergency medical or trauma event, demonstrated exceptional effort in the development of pediatric training or quality improvement programs, or was instrumental in planning and conducting creative injury prevention programs.

Recipients will receive a special lunch celebration, individual certificates of appreciation, and a plaque for their station or crew quarters recognizing them as champions in the emergency care for children in Texas.

Nominations for the EMSC Crew of the Year can be dropped in the [Mail Pouch](#) along with a brief (500 words or less) description of the event or program and why you feel this crew deserves special honor and recognition, or sent to:

Tony Gilchrest at
adgilchr@texaschildrens.org.



[Mail Pouch](#)

EMSC State Partnership, TX

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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Survey (continued from page 1)

need for and/or utility of regional on-line pediatric medical control resources from the physician medical director's perspective, and identify other possible alternative solutions available.

The questionnaire will close at midnight on March 30, 2012. Results of this survey, along with its companion, *Medical Direction from the Providers Perspective*, will be analyzed and reported on the [EMSC website](#) and to the GETAC Medical Directors', EMS, and Pediatric subcommittees of the Governor's EMS and Trauma Advisory Council.

EMSC State Partnership Update

National Pediatric Readiness Project to Launch this Fall

Texas EMSC State Partnership Leading the Way

The Pediatric Preparedness Working Group, a multi-disciplinary collaborative with representatives from EMSC, American Academy of Pediatrics, American Academy of Family Physicians, American Academy of Emergency Physicians, Emergency Nurses Association, and Hospital Corporation of America, is launching an exciting new project this Fall. The *National Pediatric Readiness Project (NPRP)* is a multi-year quality improvement initiative aimed at assessing the nation's current ability to provide quality emergency care for children and providing effective tools and resources to empower hospitals, especially in the rural and community setting, to better prepare their emergency departments to care for kids on a routine basis or in the event of a disaster. In addition, the project will promote steps to address existing gaps in local, state, and federal resources, revise and refine national guidelines, and develop partnerships and collaboratives to further support local communities, hospitals, and healthcare professionals in their efforts to provide the best possible pediatric emergency care.

[Dr. Joe Wright](#) called the National Pediatric Readiness Project "the largest collaborative effort to date to come out of the [IOM report](#) on emergency care for children." The project will begin with a nation-wide assessment of emergency departments using the American Hospital Association sampling frame of more than 6000 hospitals. Data will be collected on various aspects of pediatric preparedness based on the AAP, ACEP, ENA joint policy statement, [Guidelines for Care of Children in the Emergency Department](#), including staffing, training and education, policies and guidelines, and equipment. This data will provide the foundation on which the ongoing quality improvement initiative will be constructed. Hospitals completing the assessment will immediately receive a readiness score with a comparison to the average score of hospitals with similar ED volume and the average score of all hospitals in the data set. In addition, participating hospitals will receive a free one-year subscription to [PEMSoft](#) decision-support software. Lead investigator Marianne Gausche-Hill, MD, F.A.C.E.P, F.A.A.P, stated that investigators are hoping to offer a gap analysis providing information on identified strengths and weakness and to develop a toolkit to help meet deficiencies.

EMSC State Partnership grantees across the nation will play a key role in the implementation and success of the National Pediatric Preparedness Project. The Texas EMSC program, along with Maryland, Massachusetts, Tennessee and Kansas, has been invited to serve a key leadership role in the initiative, advising the EMSC Program, assisting other states, and increasing engagement at the state level. Texas will coordinate with State Partnerships in Arizona, Montana, Hawaii, Nebraska, Nevada, Oregon, Rhode Island, Washington, West Virginia, and the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands comprising NPRP Group 1, slated to be the first of the five groups to roll out the project tentatively scheduled to launch in October.

Pediatric CE Opportunities

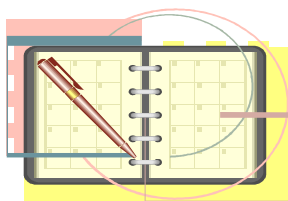
The EMSC State Partnership wishes to take this opportunity to say thanks to the dedicated individuals and their organizations that have partnered with us to bring pediatric continuing education to EMS and nursing professionals across the state. Without your help, the Partnership would not be able to 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

Change is vital, improvement the logical form of change.

James Cash Penney

Upcoming Events



Mark Your Calendar

- [NASEMSO Mid-Year Meeting](#)—May 7-8, 2012 Bethesda, MD.
- [Annual EMSC Program Meeting](#)—May 9-11, 2012 Bethesda, MD.
- GETAC Committee Meetings—May 9-11, 2012 Austin, TX
- EMSC Advisory Committee—May 18, 2012 Web Conference.

For information, drop a note in the [Mail Pouch](#).