

The Pony Express

Improving emergency medical care for children all across Texas



EMSC State Partnership, TX

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EMSC

Headline News

Texas Family Representatives Receive Top National Honors from EMSC

On May 10, during the Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) Annual Program Meeting in Bethesda MD, Texas EMSC State Partnership family representatives Jeanine Pinner and Debbie Wiederhold were nationally recognized for outstanding service to the EMSC program. The 2012 EMSC Recognition Award was presented by Elizabeth Edgerton, MD, MPH, branch chief for EMSC and Injury and Violence Prevention within the Health Services and Resources Administration's (HRSA) Maternal and Child Health Bureau for going "above and beyond to provide advice, inspiration, and leadership in grant-related matters."

Following is a re-print of the article [2012 National EMSC Recognition Awards Honors 10 Remarkable Individuals](#), available on the EMSC National Resource Center website:



Debbie Wiederhold and Jeanine Pinner. Debbie (top) and Jeanine (bottom) are the Parent-to-Parent coordinators of the [Texas Family Advisory Network](#). Their nominator, Texas State Program Manager Tony Gilchrest, MPA, EMT-P, refers to them as the "Dynamic Duo" of Texas. During the past year, they have been outstanding partners in the education of emergency care providers. Debbie's son Daniel has osteogenesis imperfecta type II, or brittle bone disease. Jeanine's son, Jake, has autism spectrum disorder and Asperger's syndrome.

Together, the four have traveled across the state, driving hundreds of miles to help teach emergency services personnel about the assessment and management of children with special health care needs. In the classroom, the Dynamic Duo goes into action, playing the role of parent advocate in a way that simply cannot be simulated by teachers and role players, and Daniel and Jake bring the element of real-life interaction and communication to assessment scenarios.

While this may sound simple enough, one has to consider not only the sacrifice of time, money, and comfort in traversing a state as large as Texas, but also the trust that a mother has to have to put her child in the hands of a group of students. Daniel's bones can break so easily that the care provider must use extreme caution even for simple procedures such as checking a pulse, and Jake places himself in a vulnerable position every time he role-plays or is approached by a group of students to do an assessment. It is tremendously courageous of all four of them and demonstrates their commitment to improving pediatric emergency care.

Last year, Debbie, Jeanine, Daniel, and Jake received the Texas EMSC Champions for Children Award.

Congratulations from the Texas EMSC State Partnership to Debbie and Jeanine for this well deserved honor.

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Best Practices

City of Taft EMS Making Changes to Improve Pediatric Readiness



On average, pediatric calls make up about 10% of all emergency medical transports, and critically ill and injured children are relatively rare. Taft EMS Director Jorge Luis Alvarez, EMT-I, recognized that when those rare calls do come in, it is vital to have the right equipment in the right place at the right time.

Mr. Alvarez stated, "I think that this is something that is overlooked at times because we don't deal with these types of calls on an everyday basis. For an adult it is common to have a cardiac arrest and we know where to go for this equipment, but when it's an infant/child we fumble for stuff, adrenalin starts pumping, and then you have supplies and equipment all over the ambulance."

In an effort to assure that the appropriate pediatric equipment is available and readily accessible at all times, Taft EMS is preparing special pediatric jump kits for each of its ambulances where everything that may be needed to care for children will be in one centralized location. This simple measure has the potential to be life saving when seconds count for the next critically ill or injured child.

The City of Taft EMS is a small rural agency in San Patricio County. They cover an area of 100 square miles with a staff of 12 employees serving a population of 8,500. They run 1 BLS/MICU capable ambulance 24/7 and staffed full-time with a second unit for peak times staffed with on-call personnel.

The Texas EMSC State Partnership praises Taft EMS for recognizing the importance of pediatric readiness and for taking these steps to improve their ability to provide the best possible care for children.



Mail Pouch

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www.bcm.edu/pediatrics/emsc

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EMSC State Partnership Update

Things are Heating Up for EMSC in Summer 2012

More than the weather is sizzling this summer. The EMSC State Partnership is continuing to blaze new trails in the emergency medical care of critically ill and injured children in Texas. In its fourth year at Baylor College of Medicine, the EMSC program, together with a strong network of partners and collaborators from many disciplines, is poised to set new standards in pediatric emergency preparedness across the state through research, education, and advocacy. Here is an update of the programs we are working on:

Protocol Literature Review. The first two literature review summaries from the Texas Children's Hospital (TCH) Evidence-Based Outcomes Center (EBOC) are in the final stages and the third is expected to be completed in time for the August GETAC meetings. Each summary addresses four research questions related to topics of interest based on stakeholder input. Topics include non-trauma shock, post-resuscitation, C-spine immobilization, and non-transport issues. Completed summaries, along with the literature review methodology, will be reported to GETAC committee in August and posted on a web page on the Texas EMSC State Partnership website. Additionally, other evidence-based pediatric emergency care guidelines will be included in the EMSC Pediatric Protocol Resource as they become available.

National Pediatric Readiness Project. The National Pediatric Readiness Project (NPRP) is a comprehensive, ongoing quality improvement program aimed at benchmarking pediatric emergency care and providing emergency department managers and staff with tools and resources to improve their pediatric preparedness. The project is the result of a multidisciplinary, collaborative effort involving the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP), the Emergency Nurses Association (ENA), and the Emergency Medical Services for Children.

With endorsements from the Texas Pediatric Society (TPS), Children's Hospital Association of Texas (CHAT), Texas Hospital Association (THA), and Texas Emergency Nurses Association, the Texas EMSC State Partnership has adopted NPRP as the major pediatric quality improvement program for Texas emergency departments and is now preparing for the initial roll-out in October of this year.

Regional Pediatric Online Medical Control. The Texas Medical Director Survey results will be presented to GETAC committees in August. With a majority of medical directors supporting the concept of having pediatric on-line medical direction available from regional pediatric centers, the Partnership's next steps will be meeting with representatives from children's specialty care centers and other key stakeholders to discuss opportunities and challenges and to begin the process of developing a working plan to move this project forward.

Pediatric Continuing Education Program. The Texas State Office of Rural Health (SORH) and the EMSC State Partnership have teamed up to bring pediatric continuing education to rural and frontier EMS and nursing personnel through the Critical Access Hospitals under the FLEX program. The first class has been scheduled and we are reaching out to other CAH facilities to host training programs. In addition, the Partnership is working with the National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians (NAEMT) to develop an NAEMT Emergency Pediatric Care (EPC) program in Texas. This course offers flexibility and affordability for trainers interested in providing comprehensive prehospital pediatric CE opportunities.

Pediatric CE Opportunities

Rankin County Hospital District, Texas Office of Rural Health, and Texas EMSC State Partnership present the 1st Rural Pediatric Emergency Care Conference

Rankin County Hospital District will host the first Rural Pediatric Emergency Care Conference on July 14, 2012 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM. CE will be provided for EMS personnel. Nursing contact hours are pending. For more information, contact Tommy Johnson at 432-644-5757; snappytom@gmail.com, or Wade Sudderth at 432-693-2443, ext. 1018.

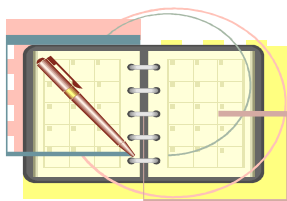
To schedule a CE class in your area, contact EMSC Program Manager Tony Gilchrest at 832-824-6028, or drop a note in the [Mail Pouch](#).

Final Thought

Action is the foundational key to all success.

Pablo Picasso

Upcoming Events



Mark Your Calendar

- Texas Parent to Parent Conference—June 29-30, San Marcos, TX. Embassy Suites Conference Center
- Rural Pediatric Emergency Care Conference—July 14, 2012 Rankin County Hospital District, Rankin, TX.
- EMSC Advisory Committee Annual Workshop—August 17, 2012, Austin, TX. Location to be announced.
- GETAC Committee Meetings—August 15-17, 2012 Austin, TX
- For information, drop a note in the [Mail Pouch](#).