

# The Pony Express

Improving emergency medical care for children all across Texas



Vol. 5, Issue 1, June/July 2013



## Headline News



### Texas EMSC Welcomes New Program Manager

The EMS for Children Texas State Partnership welcomes their new Program Manager, Sam Vance, BA, NREMT-P. Sam began his career in EMS in 1987 with the City of St. Louis, Missouri Emergency Medical Services. In 1993 he moved to the Metro West Fire Protection

District in St. Louis County, Missouri where he worked as a Paramedic/Firefighter. After 14 years of service he was forced to retire after sustaining a career ending back injury. For the past four years Sam worked as the Prehospital Outreach Coordinator for St. Louis Children's Hospital in St. Louis, Missouri. In this position he was the liaison between the hospital and the different ambulance/fire departments in Missouri and Illinois. He also represented the hospital at state and regional EMS and trauma meetings and was active in the EMS for Children programs in both Missouri and Illinois. Sam has numerous instructor certifications and is currently working on his Master's Degree in Healthcare Administration. He is also a veteran of the United States Marine Corps. Sam is very excited to be here in Texas and is looking forward to meeting and working with all of you. Please help welcome Sam to Texas!

## 2013-14 EMS Reassessment

To demonstrate the effectiveness of the EMS for Children Program, the [Health Resources and Services Administration \(HRSA\)](#), [Maternal Child Health Bureau \(MCHB\)](#) periodically report to Congress on the progress of the EMS for Children performance measures. This is done to demonstrate effectiveness of the program as well as compare new data to old, and provide information for quality improvement.

A statewide assessment of all EMS agencies' capacity to treat ill or injured children (0-18 years) will be performed. This assessment is being conducted by the Emergency Medical Services for Children Program Texas State Partnership and is based on the pediatric portion of the 2009 American Academy of Pediatrics' nationally recommended list of equipment for ambulances, as well as the availability of on and off line medical direction when treating a child.

The assessment is conducted on a secure web-based system. If you do not have internet access, a hard copy may be obtained. The Texas EMS for Children State Partnership has recently sent e-mails and letters to all agencies in the state to obtain current contact information. Phone calls are also being made to those departments that have not responded. This is so the survey can be sent to the appropriate person.

Each state is required to participate in this reassessment and has a three month window to collect the data. The first cohort started June 1<sup>st</sup>. Texas is in the fifth cohort which starts October 1, 2013.

As you may recall, the initial assessment was conducted in 2010. Texas EMS agencies had an 80 percent response rate. We would not only like to meet that same percentage in 2013, but would like to exceed it. The success of this assessment depends directly upon your participation and support. If you have any questions, please call the EMS for Children State Program Manager Sam Vance at 832-824-6028 or by e-mail at [Samuel.Vance@bcm.edu](mailto:Samuel.Vance@bcm.edu)

## Best Practices

### Congratulations to Fayette County EMS: 2013 EMS for Children Crew of the Year

Each year the EMSC State Partnership asks for nominations for an EMS crew in Texas who has demonstrated outstanding care for a child in an emergency medical or trauma event, displayed exceptional effort in the development of pediatric training or quality improvement programs, or was instrumental in the planning or conducting pediatric injury or illness prevention projects. We are proud to announce that a crew from Fayette County EMS was nominated by Joseph Marshall, Assistant Director of Fayette County EMS, and has received the EMS for Children Crew of the Year Award for outstanding care for a child in an emergency medical event. Crew members include: Natalie Morgan, Sarah Lundquist, Brian Kemp, Brett Shryock, and Joseph Duprie.

Following is the nomination from Assistant Director Marshall:

*Fayette County EMS Medic 6 was dispatched to an unknown location off Interstate 10 in Schulenberg, TX for a female in labor. Upon arrival, they found the patient in the vehicle and that she had experienced a spontaneous birth. Initial assessment proved to find a newborn with a cyanotic core, apneic, with meconium present in the oral airway. First APGAR Score = 1. The crew initiated care by cutting the umbilical cord, warming, drying, stimulating and suctioning the baby until she began to breathe on her own. No helicopter was flying due to the weather. The baby was transported to the closest appropriate hospital. The receiving facility stabilized the newborn and then transferred her to a children's hospital in Austin. We found out later that the mother was being driven by her husband to her OB/GYN in another town when she developed pain and subsequently delivered her baby 2 weeks preterm. Mother was diagnosed with abruptio placenta which precipitated the delivery. A second ambulance transported the mother to the hospital. The mother and baby both survived without complications.*

EMS for Children Texas and all of our partners wish to express our sincere gratitude to the 2013 EMS for Children Crew of the Year for their outstanding dedication and commitment to providing excellent pediatric emergency medical care in Texas.



Mail Pouch

## EMSC State Partnership, TX

Check out the EMSC State Partnership website at

[www.bcm.edu/pediatrics/emsc](http://www.bcm.edu/pediatrics/emsc)

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

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## National Pediatric Readiness Project Update

The National Pediatric Readiness Project is a multiphase quality improvement initiative to ensure that all emergency departments (ED) in the United States have the necessary guidelines and resources to provide effective emergency care to children. The first phase of this project is a national assessment of EDs' readiness to care for children. This assessment is based on the Joint Policy Statement: Guidelines for the Care of Children in the Emergency Department (published in *Pediatrics*, October 2009 and *Annals of Emergency Medicine*, October 2009). This project is being conducted as a cooperative effort of the federal [Emergency Medical Services \(EMS\) for Children Program](#), the [American Academy of Pediatrics \(AAP\)](#), the [American College of Emergency Physicians](#), and the [Emergency Nurses Association \(ENA\)](#). The project has also received support from organizations such as the [Joint Commission](#) and the [Hospital Corporation of America](#).

The assessment consists of five cohorts that began January 2013. Texas was in Cohort 1, which began in January 2013 and closed in April 2013. I am pleased to report that we had a 60.5% response rate of all of the hospitals surveyed throughout Texas. Currently, the national response rate amongst hospitals is 71%. However, **Texas has set a record for the actual number of hospitals responding to the assessment at 305 facilities responding!** Congratulations to all of you for a job well done!

Each hospital that completed the assessment should have received immediate feedback in the form of a readiness score and a gap analysis report. The readiness score reflects the following areas of the assessment: administration and coordination; physicians, nurses, and other ED staff; quality/process improvement in the ED; pediatric patient safety; policies, procedures, and protocols; and equipment, supplies, and medications. The gap analysis summarizes the facility's strengths and weaknesses within the key areas of the assessment.

Once the nurse administrator/manager receives the "Pediatric Readiness Score" and shares it with leadership and the emergency department staff, they can use the "[Pediatric Readiness Toolkit](#)" to help improve the readiness of their ED. The [Readiness Toolkit](#) is a collection of resources, promising practices, and articles that are specifically designed to improve the pediatric readiness of your emergency department.

The Texas EMS for Children State Partnership recently received the statewide results from the Pediatric Readiness Project. Those results are being studied and will be compiled in a report that will be available in the future on the Texas State Partnership's EMS for Children website at [www.bcm.edu/pediatrics/emsc](http://www.bcm.edu/pediatrics/emsc).

If you have any questions regarding the Pediatric Readiness Project or questions regarding your facility's readiness score, please contact the Texas EMS for Children State Partnership Program Manager, Sam Vance at 832-824-6028 or [Samuel.Vance@bcm.edu](mailto:Samuel.Vance@bcm.edu)

## Pediatric Protocol Resource Toolkit Now Available

The Texas EMS for Children State Partnership is happy to announce that the [Pediatric Protocol Resource or PPR Toolkit](#) is now available! This toolkit is a one of a kind resource for emergency medical service (EMS) agencies and their medical directors, EMS professionals, and prehospital research personnel. Tools within the toolkit include links to local, regional, and national resources, recently developed Evidence-Based (EB) prehospital pediatric protocols, EB summaries, model protocols and a reference library.

The Texas EMS for Children State Partnership has made every effort to assure that the Pediatric Protocol Resource includes only model protocols created through either a thorough consensus-based or evidence-based process involving multi-disciplinary workgroups that include pediatric emergency medicine specialists, prehospital emergency medicine physicians, EMS providers, family/consumer representatives, research/data professionals, and/or other stakeholders.

The evidence-based protocols have been compiled into an algorithm for the management of patients in the prehospital setting. Though these protocols are recommended, EMS agencies can customize them for their use. Evidence summaries are provided for each protocol to help an agency's medical director tailor the algorithm to meet their individual needs. More protocols will be added as they are developed.

Evidence-based summaries are also included for EMS agencies to use in consideration when developing their own protocols. Evidence-based summaries are a compilation of existing medical literature to address clinically relevant questions in the management of patients in the prehospital setting. They are not intended to be full protocols or guidelines, but are for topics in which creation of a full protocol is difficult due to the limited amount of evidence that is available.

If you have any questions regarding the Pediatric Protocol Resource, please contact the Texas EMS for Children State Partnership Program Manager, Sam Vance at 832-824-6028 or [Samuel.Vance@bcm.edu](mailto:Samuel.Vance@bcm.edu)

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## EMS for Children Crew of the Year



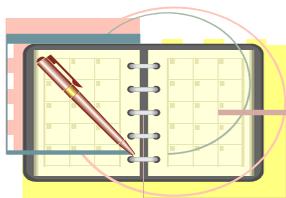
Fayette County EMS Assistant Director Joe Marshall, Paramedic Joe Duprie, EMT Sarah Lundquist, Eng Song (mother), Peter Song, Meng Kea (father) holding baby, Kaylynn Song, Paramedic Natalie Morgan, Captain Brian Kemp and Fayette County EMS Director Sharon Muzny.

## Final Thought

The true meaning of life is to plant trees, under whose shade you do not expect to sit.

**Nelson Henderson**

## Upcoming Events



Mark Your Calendar

- [Texas Parent to Parent Conference](#): July 26 - 27  
San Marcos, TX
- EMS for Children Advisory Committee Meeting:  
August 20, 2 pm - 5 pm at Dell Children's Hospital  
Austin, TX
- GETAC Committee Meetings:  
August 21 - 23 in Austin, TX