

EMSC Advisory Committee Minutes, Tuesday, 5/24/2022, 2:30 pm – 4:00 pm CST, conducted virtually via Zoom platform

Core Members Present: Sam Vance, Sally Snow, Joe Schmider, Mark Sparkman MD, Kate Remick MD, Greta James-Maxfield, Kathryn Kothari MD, Roy Hunter

Core Members Absent: None

Others Present: Mattie Mendoza, Belinda Waters, Nikki Ramirez (Baylor Scott and White), Eric Rodgers (Carrollton FD), Charles Jacquith, Brent Hahn, Melissa Christianson, Annette Flores

Desired Outcomes:

- Approve meeting minutes from February EAC meeting
- Determine future meeting dates, times, and place
- Vote to approve or disapprove the VPRP recognition of Ascension Seton Hays
- Review the results of the 2022 EMSC Survey
- Receive an update on the EMSC Crew of the Year Award recipients and EMS Week/EMSC Day
- Receive an update on the revised EMS Recognition program
- Discuss the pediatric readiness requirements in the revised Texas Trauma Rules and the potential impact to VPRP. Determine course of action.

May 24, 2022 2:30 PM – 4:00 PM			
What	How	Who	Time
Introductions	Welcome and Roll Call	Sam Vance/ Dr. Kathryn Kothari	5 minutes 2:30 – 2:35
Approval of February Minutes	Vote to approve minutes from the Feb. EAC meeting	Sam Vance/Greta James-Maxfield	5 minutes 2:35 – 2:40
Future Meeting Dates, Times, Place	Discuss and determine future meeting dates, times, and place	Sam Vance/All	15 minutes 2:40 – 2:55
Ascension Seton Hays	Vote to approve/disprove the VPRP recognition of Ascension Seton Hays	Sam Vance/All	15 minutes 2:55 – 3:10
2022 EMSC Survey	Review the results of the 2022 EMSC Survey	Sam Vance	10 minutes 3:10 – 3:20
Crew of the Year Award, EMS Week and EMSC Day	Update on Crew of the Year Award winner, EMS Week and EMSC Day proclamation	Sam Vance	5 minutes 3:20 – 3:25
Revised EMS Recognition Program	Update on the GETAC committees recommendations	Sam Vance	5 minutes 3:25 – 3:30
New Trauma Rules Concerns	Discuss the new pediatric readiness requirements in the Texas Trauma Rules and how we are going to address potential impact to VPRP	Sam Vance/Sally Snow/Dr. Remick/All	25 minutes 3:30 – 3:55
Meeting Wrap Up	Review of action items and any new items from the committee	Sam Vance/All	5 minutes 3:55 – 4:00

Highlighted areas are ACTION ITEMS.

Introductions

- Sam Vance welcomed everyone to the meeting, conducted roll call of the EAC core members, and reviewed the meeting agenda.
- Sam announced a change to the posted agenda. As Sally Snow had to leave early due to a previous commitment, the agenda item, “Ascension Seton Hays” was moved to the beginning of the meeting.

Ascension Seton Hays

- Sally Snow discussed the VPRP survey of Ascension Seton Hays Hospital on April 19, 2022. This survey was conducted with Dr. Remick and Dr. Annabel Cramer attending in-person, and Sally Snow, Sam Vance, and Dr. Kothari attending virtually.
- Overall, the hospital did well. Areas of opportunity for improvement include more involvement needed from executive leadership, dedicated time for the nurse PECC, ensure nurse competencies in pediatrics, and be more strategic about dedicating time and resources to integrating the needs of pediatric patients.
- There were no further comments from the committee.
- Sally Snow made the motion to award Ascension Seton Hays Hospital with VPRP recognition. Dr. Remick seconded. No further discussion. Motion passed.
- Sam Vance will contact Ascension Seton Hays Hospital to notify them of their award and will schedule a meeting with them to review the final report and recommendations.

Approval February Minutes

- The minutes from the February EAC meeting were presented for approval.
- Sally Snow made the motion to approve the minutes as written. Joe Schmider seconded. No further discussion. Minutes approved.

Future Meeting Dates, Times, Place

- Sam Vance discussed how this meeting was being conducted virtually because he was unable to secure an in-person meeting location.
- It is difficult to meet at this time, as the Stroke Committee also meets at this time and they are discussing the development of a pediatric stroke protocol.
- The EMSC program does not have the funding to secure a meeting room at the hotel.
- Travelling to Dell Children’s is an option however, there would not be enough time to make it back for the Air Medical Committee meeting.
- Sam mentioned several potential options.
 - Meet during the Cardiac Committee meeting on Day 2 at 4pm.
 - Continue to meet virtually and schedule at any time.
 - Meet the day before GETAC.
 - Meet after the GETAC meeting on Friday.
- Joe Schmider stated that we could potentially use the GETAC meeting room of the hotel during lunch of Day 1 meetings. This would be right after the Pediatric Committee meeting, so we could potentially capture some of those participants.
 - Everyone was in agreement with this as long as the timeframe allowed (1-hour) can accommodate the full meeting.
 - Joe will check with his Director, Jorie Klein to see if the meeting room is available during this time and if we would be able to use it for the August meeting. Joe will get back to Sam with an answer.

2022 EMSC Survey

- The 2022 EMSC Survey began January 5, 2022, and closed March 31, 2022. As over the past few years, the survey looked at EMSC Performance Measures 02 – presence of a PECC, and 03 – Having a process in place to evaluate the competency of provider’s clinical skills with pediatric specific equipment.
- We surveyed 531 ground EMS agencies that respond to 911 calls. 295 responded for a response rate of 55.6%
- NEDARC is working on exporting, prepping, cleaning, and analyzing the dataset over the coming weeks and months. The finalized results will be available sometime in mid-May.
- Like previous years, in August NEDARC will be emailing a 2022 National EMS for Children Survey Report to all EMS agencies
- Dr. Remick stated the scoring on PM 03 is being addressed at the national level, as there has been confusion from respondents about how the question(s) is worded.

Crew of the Year Award, EMS Week, and EMSC Day

- EMS Week this year was last week, May 15 – 22. EMS for Children Day was Wednesday, May 18.
- Governor Abbot issued a proclamation observing May 18, 2022, as Emergency Medical Services for Children Day in Texas.
 - In the proclamation he encourages “all Texans to recognize the important work EMS practitioners and the entire pediatric emergency care profession, appreciate the vital contribution they make in safeguarding the health, safety, and well-being of their communities, and advocate for the continued importance for the specialized emergency care for children.”
- On May 20 we presented the 2022 EMSC Crew of the Year Award to Bradley Starkey and Margaret Williams of the Galveston Area Ambulance Authority for their outstanding work in developing pediatric emergency care coordinators and the robust pediatric program they’ve been able to develop.
 - Including developing an EMS specific pediatric epidemiology tracking system that they integrated into the Galveston County Health Districts reporting system and surveillance reports. This system allowed them to make changes to specialty equipment and different medications for their pediatric COVID population.

Revised EMS Recognition Program

- Earlier today, Sam asked the Pediatric Committee and Injury Prevention Committee if they have reviewed the revised EMS Recognition Program and had any feedback. He reports they had none.
- Sam asked the EAC that since the original program was endorsed by all the committees and GETAC in 2014, do we really need to have them endorse the revised program?
 - Consensus is that no approval is needed since they already endorsed in 2014.
 - The intent is a living document that can be edited upon suggestion from committees as the program rolls out.

New Trauma Rules Concerns

- The new ACS standard requires that all ACS verified trauma centers, both adult and pediatric, participate in the National Pediatric Readiness Project (NPRP) assessment. If any gaps are identified in the assessment, trauma centers are required to develop a plan to address those gaps. The new standards take effect next year and will be used for verification visits beginning in late 2023.
- DSHS also has new pediatric standards in the proposed rule changes for all trauma centers in Texas. In the Pediatric Committee meeting this morning, Jorie Klein stated the new rules will be

effective in September 2023. Jorie also stated they have added the requirement that facilities will have to address any gaps identified in their assessment, as the ACS requires. The new pediatric standards in the DSHS trauma rule changes include the following:

- All trauma centers must meet and maintain the Pediatric Readiness Criteria. This is specific to completion of the Pediatric Readiness assessment, ensuring that the pediatric equipment and resources are immediately available at the facility, education and training requirements for ENPC or PALS is compliant for nurses, and the facility conducts one pediatric trauma resuscitation simulation quarterly that has documented evidence of medical staff leadership. Note: There should be one nurse on duty each shift with pediatric competencies.
 - Pediatric facilities must have resources and equipment immediately available to care for adult trauma patients, educations such as TNCC, and complete one adult trauma resuscitation simulation quarterly with medical staff leadership. Note: There should be one nurse on with competencies and education to care for the adult patient.
 - Facilities seeking trauma designation must have documented evidence of compliance to the Pediatric Readiness Criteria as written if they an adult trauma facility.
 - Pediatric facilities must have adult equipment immediately available, have TNCC or ATCN education, and have a documented adult trauma resuscitation simulation quarterly, with evidence of medical staff leadership. Note: There should be one nurse on with competencies and education to care for the adult patient.
- Sam stated he and Dr. Kothari met with Brenda Putz, Vice President of Operations for the Texas EMS and Trauma Acute Care Foundation (TETAF), earlier today to discuss concerns regarding trauma surveys and the new pediatric readiness rules. Brenda's biggest concern is how they are going to verify medical requirements as part of their trauma survey. Sam and Dr. Kothari offered their help with resources and education/training for their surveyors.
 - Dr. Remick stated the criteria the state puts forth could be a way to advance the VPRP statewide.
 - Sam mentioned he has seen an uptick in interest as the ACS and Texas Trauma rules are getting more attention.
 - Sam and Sally Snow presented on pediatric readiness and the new trauma rules to the Texas Trauma Coordinators Forum (TTCF) yesterday, May 23.
 - Other discussion and concerns included:
 - EMSC not having the bandwidth to process all of the potential applications for VPRP.
 - Write the new trauma criteria into the VPRP program.
 - If a trauma facility has a successful trauma survey, they could be considered pediatric ready.
 - After trauma verification, ask TETAF to notify EMSC so the facility can be recognized as pediatric ready.
 - How will the trauma specific reviewers be trained to include the aspects of pediatric readiness?
 - Sam stated that Jorie Klein and Brenda Putz wanted to wait until the rules are in place before addressing any of these specific issues.
 - Joe Schmider suggested we make this the focus of our August meeting, as the rules will be complete enough to be discussed. He also suggested inviting Jorie Klein and TETAF to the meeting to discuss.
 - Sam will follow up with Jorie and Brenda regarding meeting in August to discuss further.

Meeting Adjourned

- 4:15 PM CST

NEXT MEETING: August 17. Time and place will be announced once verified.