

At Galveston Area Ambulance Authority, we see over 1,000 pediatric patients a year and this continues to climb. Our services for pediatrics range from specialty patients and emergency evacuations to the unfortunate drownings that's due to our geographical location and being a tourist community. Mr. Starkey and Mrs. Williams recognized a need in our service that needed refinement for our growing pediatric population.

Both Mr. Starkey and Mrs. Williams took it upon themselves to seek out pediatric education and guidance on developing a more robust pediatric program. They began by starting the PECC courses. They were able to move to a 100% QA on every pediatric patient, provide feedback to the crews, and take that feedback to begin making evidence-based changes to our clinical practice guidelines. Previously, our pediatric guidelines were grouped in with the adult guidelines by illness type; we now have a robust system in place that is pediatric centered.

The COVID pandemic brought an additional challenge to pediatric patients. This team developed an EMS specific pediatric epidemiology tracking system that they were able to integrate into the Galveston County Health Districts reporting system and surveillance reports. This surveillance also afforded our organization to make changes to specialty equipment and different medications for our pediatric, COVID, population. We created better patient outcomes and continuity of care with partnering hospitals and facilities.

This team has, and continues, to develop partnerships with our surrounding area in pediatrics for educational opportunities, patient feedback, and case reviews. We developed feedback from the field crews, whom, get excited to learn new pediatric topics. Primarily, due to this dynamic duo, we will be a better focused pediatric EMS agency that continues to grow in pediatrics and become leaders in prehospital Pediatric emergencies.