

**EMSC Advisory Committee Minutes**, Thursday, 8/15/2024, 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm CST, conducted virtually via Zoom platform

**Core Members Present:** Sam Vance, Kathryn Kothari MD, Mark Sparkman MD, Sally Snow, Greta James-Maxfield, Mattie Mendoza

**Core Members Absent:** Joe Schmider, Roy Hunter, Lisa Treleven, Kate Remick MD,

**Ad Hoc Members Present:** Brian Moore MD, Nichole Davis MD, Belinda Waters, Marissa Rodriguez

<b>August 15, 2024 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM</b>			
<b>What</b>	<b>How</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>Time</b>
Introductions	Welcome and Roll Call	Sam Vance/ All	5 minutes <b>1:00 - 1:05</b>
Prehospital Pediatric Readiness Project Assessment (PPRP)	Present preliminary final response rates of the PPRP Assessment	Sam Vance	20 minutes <b>1:05 - 1:25</b>
EMS Recognition Program	Present the current progress of the EMS Recognition Program	Sam Vance	5 minutes <b>1:25 - 1:30</b>
Voluntary Pediatric Recognition Program (VPRP)	Present the current progress of the VPRP	Sally Snow	5 minutes <b>1:30 - 1:35</b>
TX Prehospital Pediatric Readiness Education Series	Elicit ideas to increase registrant participation	Sam Vance	10 minutes <b>1:35 - 1:45</b>
Proposed Trauma Designation Rules	Status report on the proposed revisions to Chapter 157 rules	Joe Schmider	5 minutes <b>1:45 - 1:50</b>
GETAC Pediatric Simulation Taskforce	Share the latest developments of the taskforce	Belinda Waters/Sally Snow	5 minutes <b>1:50 - 1:55</b>
TX Pediatric Readiness Improvement Project	Deliver a briefing on the Pediatric Readiness Improvement Project	Dr. Remick/Sally Snow	10 minutes <b>1:55 - 2:05</b>
Family Advisory Network Representatives	Share the latest work of the FAN Reps	Greta James-Maxfield	5 minutes <b>2:05 - 2:10</b>
EIIC and NPRQI Update	Outline the highlights of work the EIIC is doing and NPRQI update	Dr. Remick	15 minutes <b>2:10 - 2:25</b>
Wrap Up	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review Action Items</li> <li>• Address Outstanding Questions</li> <li>• Confirm Next Steps</li> </ul>	Sam Vance/All	5 minutes <b>2:25 - 2:30</b>

**Highlighted areas are ACTION ITEMS.**

### **Introductions**

- Sam Vance conducted roll call of the EAC core members and welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- Marissa Rodriguez, DSHS Child Safety Group Manager. Sam has been working with Marissa on the Safe Transport of Children in Ground Ambulances initiative and invited Marissa to the meeting.
- We will be moving the report on the GETAC Pediatric Simulation Taskforce to the beginning of the meeting, as Belinda has to leave early for her shift at work.

### **GETAC Pediatric Simulation Taskforce**

- The three simulations of abdominal trauma, vomiting/inflicted injury, and respiratory emergency were submitted and approved by GETAC at their meeting in June.
- Four more simulations have been completed by the taskforce and will be submitted to GETAC for approval at their August meeting next week. Those simulations are: hanging with C-spine injury, penetrating trauma, newborn resuscitation, and intentional overdose.
- Six additional simulations are currently in development, with the plan to submit them for approval at the November GETAC meeting.

### **Prehospital Pediatric Readiness Project (PPRP) Assessment**

- The National Prehospital Pediatric Readiness Project (PPRP) is an initiative to ensure all U.S. EMS agencies and fire-rescue services responding to public 911 medical calls have the essential resources to provide high-quality emergency care for children. The project is led by the Emergency Medical Services for Children Program in partnership with more than 30 national organizations and stakeholders.
- The Prehospital Pediatric Readiness Project (PPRP) Assessment was conducted from May 1 to July 31, 2024. During this period, we evaluated all ground EMS agencies that respond to 911 calls and transport patients, as well as First Responder Organizations (FROs) that respond to 911 calls but do not transport patients.
- Sam presented the preliminary final response rates.
  - Nationally, 15,293 EMS agencies were sent the assessment, with 7,039 completing it, resulting in a response rate of 46%.
  - In Texas, 415 EMS agencies and FROs responded out of 1,126 that were sent the assessment.
  - For Texas, the overall response rate was 37%.
  - We assessed 609 FROs and 517 EMS agencies, totaling 1,126 agencies asked to complete the PPRP Assessment. This is the highest number of any state.
  - The FROs account for 31% of the overall respondents, and the EMS agencies account for 67% of the overall respondents.
  - Out of the 517 EMS agencies that were sent the assessment, 280 responded, resulting in a 54% response rate among the EMS agencies.
  - Out of the 609 First Responder Organizations that were sent the assessment, 128 responded, resulting in a 21% response rate among the FROs.
    - Based on a preliminary review, the EMSC Data Center reports no significant difference in pediatric readiness scores between transporting and non-transporting agencies.
    - However, the EDC reports a notable difference in scores between BLS and ALS agencies. Most of our respondents reported having ALS capability.
  - There were 47 agencies that started the assessment but didn't complete it.
    - Didn't make it past question two: 9
    - 5% - 10% (of the assessment) completed: 10
    - 10% - 20% complete: 7
    - 20% - 40% complete: 10
    - 80% - 95% complete: 5
    - 98% (5 or less questions to complete): 4
    - Needed to Click FINISH: 2

- Sam then presented the results by RAC showing the total of all EMS agencies and FROs that responded by percentage and actual number, total number of EMS agencies that responded by percentage and actual number, and then total number of FROs that responded by percentage and actual number.
- Next steps
  - The data is being cleaned and analyzed, which will take several months. The dataset is huge and complex, and we are excited to delve into it. Key state results and dashboards will be available, most likely, by this winter. National results will take longer to be prepared and shared. We will keep you updated as timelines progress.
  - Similar to NPRP, the PPRP Assessment will eventually be reopened for agencies' internal quality improvement use. This may take several months as we close out the national period. We will keep you informed once it's available.
- Thank you to all of the EMS agencies and FROs that completed the assessment. Thank you to all of the RAC directors and staff, DSHS, Dr. Sparkman and the EMS Fellows at UT Health San Antonio, the regional PECCs, and any other organization who helped encourage EMS agencies to complete the assessment.

### **EMS Recognition Program**

- We are currently revising the program to streamline it to just one level instead of three. We are also removing areas that are no longer relevant, such as NEMSIS, and addressing aspects that may be too difficult or ambitious for EMS agencies to achieve at this time.
- District 7 Fire Rescue in Northwest Bexar County completed their application process this week. We are tentatively looking at completing their assessment on Sept. 25. He's trying to coordinate everyone's schedule at his department.
- Other agencies that are in the process of completing the application process are:
  - Colleyville Fire Department (Gold-renewal)
  - El Campo EMS (Gold)
  - City of Helotes Fire Department (Bronze)
- 23 departments that have undergone recognition. Only one that has completed recognition under the revised program. District 7 will make two.

### **Voluntary Pediatric Recognition Program**

- Sally Snow reported that her and Sam have been working with Covenant Children's Hospital on their VPRP Recognition application.
- The review of their submitted documents is complete, and we are currently working to schedule a date to conduct the assessment.
- We have heard that RAC P is working on a project to get all hospitals within their RAC recognized through the VPRP. This would be approximately 30 hospitals.
- Due to the potential of more hospitals seeking recognition, we need additional facilitators. Please contact Sam or Sally if you are interested.

### **TX Prehospital Pediatric Readiness Education Series**

- Due to Hurricane Beryl we had to reschedule our July education session, as the Houston area was without electricity, cell service, and internet. The session has now been rescheduled to December 4th at 4 PM. The topic will be Pediatric Triage Tools, presented by Dr. Mark Sparkman.
- In June, we had 133 people registered with 32 attending and 19 completing the CE evaluation.
- For the August session, we had 235 registered, 44 attending, and 32 completed the CE evaluation.
- Registration isn't the issue —attendance is.
- Discussion was held as to how we can increase attendance.
  - Send reminder emails the day before.
  - Enter the names of attendees in a raffle to win a prize.
  - Send link of the recording to the listserv after the live presentation.

- o Sam to send the recording link to Mattie to post on the DSHS website with the ED education sessions.
- September's topic is Pediatric Airway Management, presented by Dr. Heidi Abraham.

### **Proposed Trauma Designation Rules**

- The proposed Chapter 157 is now published in the Texas Register. The proposed rule will be open for written public comment ending on September 3. TETAF will provide written public comment in the definition section in addition to §157.126. Those comments will be shared with stakeholders prior to the comment period deadline. The proposed trauma rule will be on the August 15 agenda of the Texas Health and Human Services Commission Executive Council meeting in Austin.
- After review, the only changes noted to the pediatric readiness recommendations is that the simulations have been changed from the requirement of conducting them four times per year, to conducting them every six months.
- Texas EMSC will be providing written comment in favor of the pediatric readiness recommendations.

### **Texas Pediatric Readiness Improvement Project**

- Sally reported that we currently have 31 regional PECCs in 22 RACs. We now have at least one regional PECC in each RAC.
- These PECCs have contact with 226 hospitals in 21 RACs.
- As of this meeting, the regional PECCs have conducted 105 pediatric simulations in 15 RACs.
  - o 1056 people have participated in these simulations.
- The last regional PECC education session focused on facility recognition programs. Sally presented on our VPRP and reported there has been a lot of questions and interest surrounding our program.

### **Family Advisory Network Representatives**

- Greta reported that the Texas Parent to Parent Annual Conference took place on August 9-10 in Austin. Greta gave a presentation on the medical home with a focus on emergency and disaster preparedness. Lisa also gave a presentation on emergency and disaster preparedness with a focus on families having a 30 and 60 day plan for after the disaster is over.
- We have another new FAN representative. Her name is Gabriella (Gabby) Pruneda. She is a special needs educator and also a professional translator. Gabby has begun work on translating our pediatric disaster guidelines.

### **EIIC and NPRQI Updates**

- Dr. Remick was not available for the meeting. As such, Sam provided an update from the HRSA EMSC Townhall Call conducted yesterday, 8/14/24.
- HRSA has made the decision to discontinue Targeted Issues Grants for this year and potentially into the future.
- Dr. Mark Cicero is the new Medical Officer for the HRSA EMSC Program.
- The Pediatric Readiness Guidelines for Emergency Departments is undergoing revision with a targeted publication of the first quarter of 2025.
- The next NPRP Assessment is scheduled for 2026.
- The HRSA EMSC Program now has an official alignment with the American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma (ACS COT).
- New resources available from the EIIC are:
  - o The 2nd ED PECC module is now available. This module focuses on the role of the PECC in assessing pediatric readiness, as well as data and research around the impact of PECCs.
  - o The updated Interfacility Transfer Guidelines has been released.
  - o There is one new resource available for the Suicide Pediatric Education and Advocacy Kits (PEAK).
  - o There are two new resources available for the Multisystem Trauma PEAK.
- NPRQI: The NPRQI Annual Report was released today.

**Meeting Adjourned**

- 2:30 PM CST

**NEXT MEETING: November 14, 2024, at 1:00 pm**