

EMSC Advisory Committee Minutes, Thursday, 6/6/2024, 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm CST, conducted virtually via Zoom platform

Core Members Present: Sam Vance, Kathryn Kothari MD, Lisa Treleaven, Mark Sparkman MD, Sally Snow, Kate Remick MD

Core Members Absent: Joe Schmider, Mattie Mendoza, Belinda Waters, Christi Thornhill, Greta James-Maxfield, Roy Hunter

Others Present: Brian Moore, MD

June , 2024			
1:00 PM – 2:30 PM			
What	How	Who	Time
Introductions	Welcome and Roll Call	Sam Vance/ All	5 minutes 1:00 - 1:05
EMSC Reauthorization Act	Status report on the EMSC Reauthorization Act	Dr. Remick	5 minutes 1:05 - 1:10
Prehospital Pediatric Readiness Project Assessment (PPRP)	Present the current progress of the PPRP Assessment	Sam Vance	15 minutes 1:10 - 1:25
EMSC Crew of the Year	Provide a summary of the EMSC Crew of the Year Award presentation	Sam Vance	5 minutes 1:25 - 1:30
EMS Recognition Program	Present the current progress of the EMS Recognition Program	Sam Vance	5 minutes 1:30 - 1:35
TX Prehospital Pediatric Readiness Education Series	Inform you about the Prehospital Pediatric Education Series	Sam Vance	5 minutes 1:35 - 1:40
Proposed Trauma Designation Rules	Status report on the proposed revisions to Chapter 157 rules	Joe Schmider	5 minutes 1:40 - 1:45
Voluntary Pediatric Recognition Program (VPRP)	Present the current progress of the VPRP	Sally Snow	5 minutes 1:45 - 1:50
Pediatric Disaster Workgroup	Provide an update on work completed	Sam Vance	5 minutes 1:50 - 1:55
GETAC Pediatric Simulation Taskforce	Share the latest developments of the taskforce	Belinda Waters/Sally Snow	5 minutes 1:55 - 2:00

Highlighted areas are ACTION ITEMS.

Introductions

- Sam Vance conducted roll call of the EAC core members and welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- Marcia Bayer was introduced as a new FAN representative. However, she was unable to attend today.

EMSC Reauthorization Act

- Currently what we know regarding the EMSC Reauthorization Act is that [HR 6960](#), the Emergency Medical Services for Children Reauthorization Act of 2024, was passed the week of May 15th by the House in a 399-13 vote.
- It was received in the Senate on May 16th and read twice, and was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, and Labor, and was ordered to be reported without amendment favorably on May 23rd. It now goes back to the full Senate for final approval. Once that happens, it goes to the president for signature. HRSA will continue to follow the companion bill in the Senate, [S.3765](#), and will share updates as available.
- The state partnership grant year begins on April 1. The State Partnership grants only received partial funding. No travel is currently being conducted – including GETAC next week. Sam and Dr Kothari will be joining virtually. HRSA has reported that they believe the remainder of Year 2 funding will be released, but do not know the exact date. They anticipate it will be by the end of June.
- Dr. Remick stated that the Systems PI Committee of GETAC is currently working on performance measures.
 - Eleven total under consideration. Two on Pediatrics.
 - The number of trauma facilities that have completed the NPRP assessment.
 - Mean pediatric readiness scores.

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 that respond to public 911 medical calls have essential resources in place 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 online assessment began May 1st and is open through July 31st.
- We are assessing all ground ambulance services that respond to 911 calls and transport patients, as well as those that respond to 911 call but do not transport patients (FROs).
- We currently have 529 transporting agencies and 620 FROs for a total of 1,149. This is the most of any state. We started with 1,153 but have cleaned up the list in CLMS – duplicates.
- This is a list of Prelaunch communications we completed to help promote the PPRP assessment
 - March 2023 Governor's EMS and Trauma Advisory Council (GETAC) Meetings; June 2023 Governor's EMS and Trauma Advisory Council (GETAC) Meetings; August 2023 Governor's EMS and Trauma Advisory Council (GETAC) Meetings; Nov. 2023 Governor's EMS and Trauma Advisory Council (GETAC) Meetings; 2023 Texas EMS Conference – Presentation; 2023 Texas EMS Conference – Exhibit Booth; Pony Express Newsletter; Texas EMS Alliance Newsletter; Texas EMS Alliance Webinar – was cancelled due to low registration; March 2024 Governor's EMS and Trauma Advisory Council (GETAC) Meetings; March 2024 Regional Advisory Council (RAC) Leadership Meeting; Texas Chapter of the NAEMSP 2024 Texas EMS Medical Directors Conference; Texas College of Emergency Physicians (TCEP) – stated they did not have any opportunities for us to present to their membership, Texas Ambulance Association – never responded to my emails; Webinar: Is Your FRO Ready to Take Care of Children? – poorly attended; Article on PPRP and assessment sent to DSHS Office for EMS for inclusion in next newsletter; NHTSA Webinar: Is Your EMS Agency Ready for Pediatric Patients
- The EDC consulted with Dr. Don Dillman to develop a surveying strategy based on evidence-based survey methods. Dr. Dillman is recognized as a major contributor to the development of modern mail, telephone, and internet survey methods and assists the US Census.
 - The EDC used this evidence-based research and data, combined with Dr. Dillman's contact system, to develop the strategic plan for the 2024 PPRP Assessment communications timeline. This timeline accounts for the holidays like Mother's Day, Cinco de Mayo, Memorial Day, and Juneteenth.
 - We are required to use the PPRP approved email templates for consistent branding and messaging. There is a separate template for EMS agencies, Fire based EMS agencies, and we

created a third for the FROs. For each of those emails shown, Sam created three separate email lists, and sent three separate emails to EMS, Fire, and FROs.

- The final email reminder was sent this morning.
- Telephone calls will begin for EMS agencies on June 20th. Dr. Sparkman has already begun calling FROs.
- The EDC tracks respondents and non-respondents via Tableau dashboards. I have access to specific agency information for responding and non-responding agencies.
- Sam presented the response rate percentage by RAC current as of 1130 today.
 - RAC leadership received the initial report on May 30th, along with a spreadsheet detailing the agencies in their RACs that have responded and those that have not.
 - Sam will be providing them with an updated report at the RAC Leadership meeting next Thursday evening, 6/13/24.
- Other important dates to be aware of:
 - August 1, 2024: EDC closes the assessment to all states and no more responses accepted
 - August – September 2024: EDC will be cleaning and analyzing the PPRP assessment data for federal reporting
 - September 2024: EMSC performance measure results from the PPRP assessment is submitted to HRSA for federal reporting
- Discussion was held regarding ways to encourage EMS agency leaders who are on GETAC and GETAC committees to complete the assessment.
 - Dr. Remick asked Sam to send her a one page PPRP flyer with a QR code to the assessment so she can make copies to place on the registration table at the GETAC meetings next week.
 - It was suggested that Sam turn his profile picture for Zoom, Teams, etc. into a PPRP assessment/QR code.
 - It was suggested that Sam put the PPRP Assessment link in the chat box during next week's EMS Committee and EMS Medical Director's Committee meetings.

EMSC Crew of the Year Award

- Each year to help celebrate EMS Week and EMS for Children Day, the Texas EMS for Children 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 of pediatric injury or illness prevention projects. These nominations are then voted on by the EMS for Children Advisory Committee to determine who the winner is.
- Montgomery County Hospital District (MCHD) received the EMS for Children Crew of the Year Award for 2024. This honor from Baylor College of Medicine's Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) is awarded to an EMS crew in recognition of outstanding prehospital emergency care of a pediatric patient. Recipients of this award are Alarm Medic II Kellie Gonzalez, In-Charge Paramedic David Ikard, In-Charge Paramedic Jeremy Cattoor, Captain Kelsie Adams, District Chief April Currie, Captain of Quality Improvement Brad Ward and Deputy Chief Tamella Welch.
- Discussion was held regarding the Crew of the Year Award and ways to promote it, as it does not appear that it will be included in the annual EMS awards at the EMS Conference any time in the foreseeable future.
 - The idea of a pediatric life saver award was discussed.
 - Obtain sponsors to help fund and promote.
 - Develop a workgroup to discuss further planning.
 - Dr. Kothari and Sally Snow volunteered to help.

EMS Recognition Program

- The EMS Recognition Program has as its primary purpose the improvement of pediatric emergency care outcomes and patient safety within the prehospital environment. The EMS Recognition Program prepares

EMS agencies to provide higher quality care for infants, children, and adolescents for the evaluation, treatment, and/or stabilization of children with medical and traumatic emergencies.

- District 7 Fire Rescue in Northwest Bexar County completed their application process this week. Working on scheduling a time to complete the assessment.
- 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.

TX Prehospital Pediatric Readiness Education Series

- The Texas Prehospital Pediatric Readiness Education Series was created to equip prehospital providers with the necessary knowledge to provide optimal care for children during emergencies, thereby decreasing rates of morbidity and mortality.
- Beginning in June 2024, 1-hour virtual sessions will highlight evidence-based or best practice guidelines and resources for adoption in EMS agencies and integrate quality improvement efforts.
- Clarify the Target Audience
 - EMS providers and personnel
 - While we have the TX Pediatric Readiness Project Virtual Education Series, that is targeted to the rural Level III and Level IV trauma centers to help them meet the requirements of the new trauma rules.
 - We want to create education specific to our EMS providers and personnel.
- Objectives - borrowed from the Texas Pediatric Readiness Project Virtual Education Series
 - Develop a process for delivering comprehensive, ongoing, pediatric specific education for EMS providers
 - Promote education and awareness among EMS providers about the unique physical characteristics, physiologic responses, and psychosocial needs of children with illness and injury.
 - Improve pediatric outcomes and support EMS providers in meeting the guidelines of the prehospital pediatric readiness project.
 - Increase awareness of the Texas EMSC EMS Recognition Program
- The first webinar was presented yesterday by Sam and Dr. Kothari titled, "Is Your EMS Agency Pediatric Ready?"
 - 133 people registered but only 32 that attended. 19 completed the assessment and evaluation to obtain CE credit.
- Next month's topic is Pediatric Triage Tools presented by Dr. Mark Sparkman
- Ideas to increase participation were discussed.
 - Place a QR code on the registration flyer that links to the online registration.
 - Sam to speak with Joe Schmider about adding to the DSHS website - similar to the ED education series, as well as placing a story in the DSHS EMS newsletter.
 - Sam to ensure that Outlook and other software platform calendar links are part of the email confirmation sent to registrants.

Proposed Trauma Designation Rules

- The Department of State Health Services is withdrawing the current Chapter 157 rule project that was first published in the Texas Register on January 19, 2024. DSHS will submit a new rule project on Chapter 157 soon.
- This withdrawal and resubmission will allow DSHS to fully address the approximately 4,000 comments regarding the proposed rule. DSHS has considered all the received comments and will make significant modifications to accommodate much of stakeholder feedback. When DSHS resubmits the rules project, the following changes will be included:

- Where the proposed rules exceeded American College of Surgeons (ACS) requirements, most provisions will be modified to a similar standard as ACS, with a couple of small exceptions.
- Where stakeholders noted that the provisions would create an undue burden on facilities, many provisions will be modified to be consistent with ACS criteria or removed.
- Related to the four categories of Level IV facilities, DSHS will modify the Level IV provisions to include just two categories: 100 patients or less and Over 100 patients. For the low volume facilities, there would be fewer requirements.
- Related to the effective date of the designation portion of the rules, DSHS will modify the proposal such that those provisions would be effective September 1, 2025.
- DSHS will provide updates through GETAC on the proposed rule timeline. Information will be sent through the email subscription system.
- It's unknown how this will affect the proposed pediatric readiness requirements that had been added. If we take this for face value, the pediatric readiness requirements will be scaled back to match the ACS requirements.

Voluntary Pediatric Recognition Program

- Sally Snow reported that her and Sam have been working with Covenant Children's Hospital on their VPRP Recognition application.
 - Sam has completed his review to ensure all required documents have been submitted.
 - Sally is now conducting a review of the content of the documents.
- Once Sally's review is complete, they will schedule a date to conduct the assessment.
- Sally stated that we need additional facilitators, and she will be speaking with some potential candidates at next week's GETAC meetings.

GETAC Pediatric Simulation Taskforce

- Belinda Waters chairs this taskforce that was developed at the request of Jorie Klein, Director of the Office of EMS and Trauma Systems, to provide simulation resources for the trauma centers - with specific focus on the Level III and IV facilities
- The task is to develop 14 scenarios
 - The scenarios have to go through GETAC for approval
 - One will be submitted at the upcoming March GETAC meeting
 - Four scenarios that are close to being completed
 - Goal is to complete all 14 by the end of calendar year 2024
- Virtual Webinar Series
 - In collaboration with the Texas Pediatric Readiness Improvement Project, a monthly education series has been developed focusing on EDs - specifically Level III and IV trauma centers.
 - This is part of the directive from Jorie Klein
 - These are presented on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 7 am
 - CE for nursing and EMS personnel is available
 - The webinars are recorded and made available on the TX ENA, TXEMSC, and DSHS websites

Texas Pediatric Readiness Improvement Project

- Sally reported that we currently have 30 regional PECCs in 21 RACs. We are currently trying to recruit a regional PECC for RAC M.
 - There is a new regional PECC in El Paso who will be trained by the end of the month.
 - There are two new regional PECCs in RAC U and RAC D who were trained in April.
- Sally also provided an update on the Pediatric Readiness Education Series.
 - There have been five education sessions presented with over 4,000 people registered and close to 2,000 total attendance for all five sessions.
 - These sessions are open to anyone, including participants outside of Texas. There has been numerous participants from several different states.
- Dr. Remick provided an update on the National Pediatric Readiness Quality Initiative (NPRQI).

- There are 117 emergency departments across 26 states currently participating.
- 34 EDs in Texas.
- These account for approximately 7,000 pediatric encounters per year.

Family Advisory Network Representatives

- Lisa reported that her and her daughter June gave a presentation at Wilson County ESD 4 in Floresville and that they will also be participating in the Prehospital Pediatric Education Series.
- Sam stated that the FAN representatives are also working with Dr. Jennifer Benjamin at Texas Children's Hospital on hurricane preparedness for parents of CSHCN - specifically the Spanish speaking population.

EIIC Project Updates

- Pediatric Advocacy and Education Kits (PEAK)
 - Two new PEAKs
 - Agitation
 - Child Abuse
 - Two PEAKs in development
 - Multi-System Trauma
 - Procedural Sedation
- Peds Ready Recognition Program Collaborative (PRRP)
 - This is for SP programs who are wanting to develop or enhance their EMS and/or facility recognition programs.
 - They are close to reaching consensus on recognition guidelines.
- Peds Ready Quality Collaborative (PRQC)
 - This QI collaborative expands on the work done in the original PRQC, which ran from April 2018 – June 2020. The new PRQC collaborative will continue efforts to accelerate emergency department (ED) pediatric readiness by empowering emergency providers and professionals to implement evidence-based QI strategies. It will focus on the following topic areas: pediatric patient safety, pediatric assessment and reassessment, pain management, and suicide.
 - The collaborative is open to ED-based teams of at least one individual. While teams must be ED-based, they can include professionals from other areas of the hospital and prehospital practitioners. The collaborative is anticipated to run beginning in late spring/early summer and continue for 12-18 months.
 - 31 hospitals in Texas participating
- There has been a few articles published recently on pediatric readiness.
- The EIIC is creating resource modules for PECCs
 - ED PECCs are being focused on first.
 - The first module is on improving your knowledge of the role of a PECC.

Meeting Adjourned

- 2:30 PM CST

NEXT MEETING: August 15, 2024, at 1:00 pm