

The Pony Express

Improving Emergency Medical Care for Children All Across Texas

EMS for Children Mission Statement

To reduce child and youth morbidity and mortality caused by severe illness or trauma by providing the right care, at the right place, at the right time.



Welcome New Program Manager Sam Vance

The EMS for Children (EMSC) State Partnership, Texas would like to welcome back Sam Vance as the new Program Manager. Many of you know Sam, as he was the Program Manager of the Texas EMSC State Partnership from 2013-2016. Sam comes back to Texas after spending the last one-and-a-half year as the Chief of the Bureau of EMS, Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services.

In this edition, we will look at how the EMS for Children Program is evolving at the national level and how that impacts us in Texas. We'll also see our EMSC Crew of the Year Award recipients, as well as other great features.



If you have any feedback on our newsletter, or if there are any stories that you would like to see, please send them to Sam Vance, Program Manager, EMSC State Partnership, Texas at:
spvance@bcm.edu

Upcoming Events

- | | |
|---------|--|
| June 11 | GETAC Pediatric Committee meeting : Virtual |
| June 15 | GETAC Trauma Systems Committee meeting : Virtual |
| June 18 | GETAC : Virtual |
| June 21 | City of Sachse Fire-Rescue
EMS Recognition
Presentation: Virtual |
| June 22 | Town of Prosper Fire - Rescue EMS Recognition
Presentation: Virtual |



www.bcm.edu/emsc

National Pediatric Readiness Project Assessment

In partnership with the National Pediatric Readiness Project (NPRP), the Texas EMS for Children State Partnership, Texas is excited to inform you about the NPRP Assessment. This national quality improvement effort evaluates the readiness of all emergency departments (ED) throughout the nation to care for ill or injured children.

This initiative is a collaboration with the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American College of Emergency Physicians, the Emergency Nurses Association, and the National Emergency for Children Program. Our goal is to ensure high-quality emergency care for all children.

The assessment should only take emergency department administrators and managers about 20-30 minutes to complete and does not have to be finished in one session.

IS YOUR EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT PEDS READY?



NPRP ASSESSMENT
MAY – JULY 2021

Visit [PedsReady.org](https://www.pedsready.org)



Once responses are submitted, you will receive immediate feedback in the form of a gap report with details about the readiness of your ED as well as access to quality improvement resources. The results will be very helpful in evaluating progress since the first assessment in 2013, and in identifying how we can best support EDs in further improving pediatric readiness.

To complete the assessment, or for more information, please visit: www.pedsready.org



Voluntary EMS Recognition Program

The Voluntary EMS Recognition Program is a multi-phase recognition program for EMS agencies that wish to establish programs and standards to improve their capabilities to deliver care to pediatrics.

This is an excellent opportunity for your agency to receive recognition within your community and from local media outlets for going "above and beyond." It is felt the most meaningful recognition comes from your own communities and the pediatric patients you treat.

More information on the Pediatric EMS Recognition Program can be found [here](#).

EMS for Children Crew of the Year Award

Eddie Burleigh, Acadian Ambulance Southeast Texas Operations Manager

The [EMS for Children State Partnership, Texas](#), presented Acadian Ambulance Paramedic Heather Waites and EMT Ryan Wilkenfeld with the 2021 Crew of the Year award. The award honors the crew's life-saving response to a traffic accident they witnessed during the historic ice storm in February 2021. The presentation was held virtually with members of the EMS for Children State Partnership including Program Manager Sam Vance, members of Acadian Ambulance and the crew's family members. It was scheduled in conjunction with EMS for Children Day, a focus of National EMS Week.

Dr. Brian Bassham, Texas EMS for Children Program Director said, "The crew that we're recognizing today is the perfect example of what EMS and emergency providers can do and how they can positively impact the communities they serve."

Texas Department of State Health Services State

EMS Director Joe Schmider said, "You made such a difference that day. This child is here today because of your actions. This family is celebrating, not mourning, and that is a great thing. Thank you for your dedication to Texas, our country and your company. We are honored to be a part of this celebration. After this, you'll get back on the truck and get back to work and do what you do every single day."

Waites and Wilkenfeld were transporting a non-critical patient as a vehicle passed their ambulance. The vehicle's driver lost control on the icy highway, flipped and landed overturned in the median filled with ice and freezing water. The crew pulled off the road to render aid and summoned for additional units to respond. They began extrication and successfully rescued four patients before reentering the vehicle to find an infant submerged in the water and unresponsive. Waites immediately began providing resuscitation efforts while Wilkenfeld continued to assess and provide care

for the other four patients. In a short period of time, the infant began breathing and regained a pulse. Today, the infant is in good health and has made a full recovery with no deficits.

Acadian Texas Medical Director Dr. Emily Kidd said, "Heather and Ryan, without your quick thinking and action and willingness to put yourselves in harm's way, this infant would not have had the same outcome. Thank you, not only for the amazing job that you did that day, but the amazing job you do every day."



Pictured: Brandon Hebert, Heather Waites, Ryan Wilkenfeld, Eddie Burleigh, Emily Kidd, MD

Voluntary Pediatric Readiness Program (VPRP)

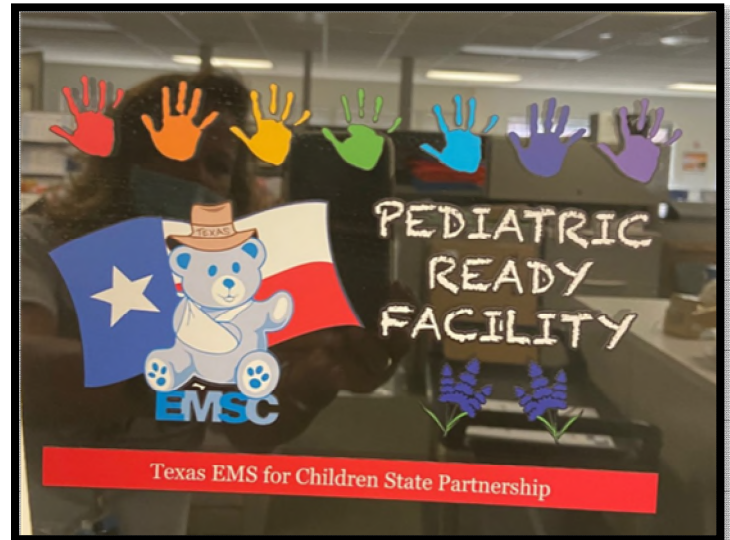
In 2013, 305 of 504 hospitals in Texas participated in the National Pediatric Readiness Project (NPRP) assessment. These 305 hospitals cumulatively treat 1,572,835 children annually in their emergency departments (EDs). Only 7% of the hospitals in Texas have a pediatric ED. In Texas, most EDs are general EDs. Only 4% of EDs are based in children's hospitals, whereas another 3% of EDs have a separate pediatric section in a general hospital ED.

Every ED should be equipped to care for children at a basic level. When children require a higher level of care, it is helpful for EMS agencies and other hospitals to know the capabilities of other facilities, so that transfers to the appropriate facility can occur. In the event of a disaster or mass casualty incident, it is also important for hospitals and EMS agencies to know the EDs in their area that have the resources available to meet the needs of children.

The goal of the Voluntary Pediatric Readiness Program (VPRP) is to bolster pediatric readiness in communities and critical access hospitals such that children and families can benefit availability of at least one ED in their own community that is equipped to stabilize and/or manage common emergencies for children. The VPRP helps improve a hospital's readiness to care for children in the following areas: staff qualifications, quality improvement efforts, policies and procedures, continuing education, equipment, supplies, and medications.

Why Participate?

- Create a culture driven to continue improvement of pediatric patient outcomes,



availability of equipment, services, and up to date policies and protocols.

- Increase the public's confidence in overall quality of a hospital's ability to address medical needs of children.
- Increase exposure of hospital in local communities as a facility prepared to address critical pediatric needs during a medical or trauma emergency.
- Utilize recognition gained as a recruiting and marketing tool to attract high quality physicians, nurses, and other healthcare specialties.
- Enhance potential educational and grant funding opportunities developed for rural hospitals.

How to participate?

Contact the Texas EMS for Children Program Manager, Sam Vance at 832-834-3672 or spvance@bcm.edu to receive an application packet; submit a complete application with required documents; go through a site assessment with a designated review team; receive recognition if required criteria are met. Throughout the process, the Texas EMSC program will provide resources to help applicants meet the baseline standard set forth by the program.

Pediatric Emergency Care Coordinator (PECC) Workforce Development Collaborative



The Pediatric Emergency Care Coordinator (PECC) Workforce Development Collaborative (PWDC) is enrolling participants now through August 1. The mission of this national collaborative, led by the Emergency Medical Services for Children Innovation and Improvement Center (EIIC), is to develop healthcare professionals working the prehospital or emergency department systems into effective pediatric champions (also known as PECCs).

The program, which will run from September 2021 through June 2022, is open to anyone with an interest in ensuring ill and injured children receive high-quality care in their community. Pediatric-specific training or experience is not required, and participants do not need to be involved in direct patient care. The time commitment is approximately three hours each month. Continuing education and Maintenance of Certification Part 4 credits will be available at no cost for all healthcare professionals.

The collaborative will offer four customized tracks:

1. EMS practitioners;
2. Hospital/ED-based nurses and healthcare professionals;
3. Hospital/ED-based physicians and advanced practice providers; and

4. EMSC State Partnership program managers.

The collaborative will occur in two parts. In the first part, participants will receive monthly education, including customized guides highlighting crucial resources and best practices; a set of questions to help identify gaps and opportunities; and access to experts in pediatric emergency care.

The second half of the PWDC will be optional. Participants will work with peers and experts to develop an improvement plan targeting one of four major areas:

- Formalizing the role of the PECC;
- Securing essential pediatric equipment, supplies and medications;
- Developing a program to train or assess pediatric competencies; or
- Developing a local policy, pathway, or clinical decision support tool.

To learn more and enroll in the PWDC, [visit the registration page](#).

