

The Pony Express

Improving emergency medical care for children all across Texas



Headline News



Welcome to the first edition of the Pony Express Newsletter for 2014. We have a lot to look forward to this Year. 2014 marks the 30th Anniversary of the EMS for Children Program nationally. In Texas we are planning to celebrate

this anniversary by holding a contest to draw a new logo for the State Partnership. Other events being planned will take place during EMS Week, May 18 - 24. There will more on this in the next edition.

Other projects we will be working on this year are:

Providing an 8 hour pediatric educational program in conjunction with our statewide partners to be presented to our critical access hospitals and EMS personnel in the rural and frontier regions. This educational program will also include online courses. In addition to this educational program, we will be seeking out EMS educators throughout the state who would like to become trainers of the Children with Special Healthcare Needs course that was developed in conjunction with our Family Advocates at [Texas Parent to Parent](#).

Developing a [National Pediatric Readiness Project](#) based quality improvement plan for hospitals that include hospital recognition for emergency departments, transfer agreements, EMS communications, disaster preparedness, injury and illness prevention, cultural and linguistic competence, and family centered care.

The Baylor College of Medicine is currently updating their website(s). Our website is a part of this upgrade and should be online with a completely new look in 2014, including offering the site in Spanish. We have not been given a specific date as to when this upgrade will occur. As a result, we have been put on hold as to adding or changing significant portions of our current website. In addition, we will also be changing the look of our newsletter, the "Pony Express".

The State Partnership will be working to identify a cultural liaison and draft a written cultural and linguistic competence policy. In addition to offering our website in Spanish, we will also begin offering our Pony Express newsletter in Spanish. We also have the goal of offering at least one of our continuing education classes in Spanish.

As the next Texas State Legislative session begins in 2015, we will be conducting a legislative search of bills that are relevant to EMS for Children initiatives to garner support from stakeholders to advocate for policy changes.

We continue to hold our EMS for Children Advisory Committee meetings in conjunction with the [Governor's EMS and Trauma Advisory Council \(GETAC\)](#) meetings in Austin. Everyone is welcome to attend these, as your input is greatly valued. A list of upcoming meetings can be found at the end of the newsletter.

These are just a few examples of some of the projects the EMS for Children program will be working on this year. As you can see, we stay very busy.

As always, if you have any questions, comments, or ideas for stories that you would like to see in the Pony Express, please do not hesitate to contact me at: Sam Vance, Samuel.Vance@bcm.edu or 832-824-6028.

Best Practices



THE LASSY PROJECT

Preventing Child Abductions

Holly Peterson, the Lassy Project
(Reprinted with permission)

The Lassy Project is a free smart phone app that was launched on October 5th to help prevent child abductions. The app is taking off very quickly and The Lassy Project is currently partnering with different associations (police departments and first responders, school systems, etc.) to help make it as effective as possible. The Lassy Project is a smart phone app that allows parents to create different routes that their kids commonly take such as walking to school or going to a friend's house. If the child strays from the designated path then an alert is immediately sent to the parent's phone. The parent can then choose to call the child and investigate. If the child is safe, the parent can dismiss the alert. But if there is a problem and the child goes missing, the parent can push a single button to activate the Village - a group of local community members - to begin search efforts immediately near the child's last known location.

The most important part of the project is what is called 'The Village'. It is comprised of local community members that have signed up to receive missing child alerts in their zip code area and are willing to help search for them. The more quickly search and rescue efforts can begin, the higher the chance that the child is found safely.

To learn more about growing this Village and preventing further abductions throughout Texas please visit the Lassy Project website at: www.thelassyproject.com

Or, contact Co-Founder John Guydon at 720-253-7585. Email: team@thelassyproject.com

To view news stories from other states regarding the Lassy Project please view the links listed on page 2.



Mail Pouch

EMSC State Partnership, TX

Check out the EMSC State Partnership website at

www.bcm.edu/pediatrics/emsc

To remove your name from our mailing list, please [click here](#).

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Pediatric Preparedness Resource Kit

After the 2009 H1N1 pandemic, the [American Academy of Pediatricians \(AAP\)](#) conducted after-action discussions and activities to determine areas for improvement and best practices from health departments regarding pediatric care. A meeting on the same topic was held in 2011. From these two actions, the AAP developed the [Pediatric Preparedness Resource Kit \(PDF, 8.13 Mb\)](#).

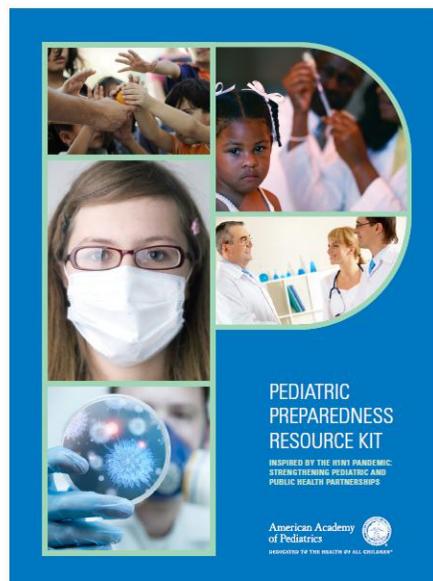
One finding was a need for better partnerships between pediatricians and state health officials, and the need to include pediatricians in state-level decision making. The AAP found pediatrics are often overlooked in the planning process. Partnerships between pediatrics and public health are vital to bring more attention to the needs of children in disasters.

Other important moves:

- Include planning for those with special health needs and high-risk groups;
- Increase the involvement of pediatricians in preparedness efforts;
- Establish pediatric advisory councils or children's preparedness coalitions;
- Develop state action plans;
- Promote simplified, timely communications and systematic messaging.

The kit provides basic and advanced ideas for promoting and working on the topics listed above.

(Source: [NASEMSO](#))



THE LASSY PROJECT

(Continued from Page 1)

NBC11 News:

<http://www.nbc11news.com/localnews/headlines/High-tech-way-to-protect-your-kids-from-abduction-226987301.html>

7NewsDenver:

<http://www.thedenverchannel.com/news/jessica-ridgeway/jessica-ridgeways-mom-speaks-about-the-killers-sentencing-and-her-work-on-the-lassy-project-app>

ABC News 10:

<http://www.news10.net/video/default.aspx?bctid=2727592619001&odyssey=mod|newswell|text|FRONTPAGE|featured>

CBS 5KPIX:

<http://sanfrancisco.cbslocal.com/video/9495942-new-app-uses-crowdsourcing-to-help-find-missing-children/>

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Evidence-Based Prehospital Guidelines

Prehospital Emergency Care, the official journal of the National Association of EMS Physicians (NAEMSP), National Association of State EMS Officials (NASEMSO), National Association of EMS Educators (NAEMSE), and the National Association of EMT's (NAEMT), has just published an open supplement titled, "Evidence Based Guidelines in EMS". Manish Shah, MD, EMS for Children Texas State Partnership Director and Charles Macias, MD, MPH, EMS for Children Texas State Partnership Quality Improvement Specialist, are co-authors on two of these articles. Included are the following titles:

- Evidence-based Guidelines for Prehospital Practice: A Process Whose Time Has Come
- The Development of Evidence-based Prehospital Guidelines Using a GRADE-based Methodology
- An Evidence-based Guideline for Pediatric Prehospital Seizure Management Using GRADE Methodology
- An Evidence-based Guideline for Prehospital Analgesia in Trauma
- An Evidence-based Guideline for the Air Medical Transportation of Prehospital Trauma Patients
- The Implementation and Evaluation of an Evidence-based Statewide Prehospital Pain Management Protocol Developed using the Prehospital Evidence-based Guideline Model Process for Emergency Medical Services

For more information or to download these articles, visit:

<http://informahealthcare.com/toc/pec/18/Supplement+1>



EMS Reassessment Update



On October 1, 2013 the EMS for Children statewide reassessment began. This is an assessment of EMS agencies and First Responder Organizations regarding their capacity to treat ill or injured children. This assessment is based on the 2009 American Academy of Pediatrics' nationally recommended list of equipment for ambulances, as well as the availability of on and off line medical direction when treating a child.

Since Texas has so many EMS and First Responder Organizations we were allowed to do a sample survey of 459 departments. These were chosen at random by a computer at the National EMSC Data Analysis Resource Center (NEDARC) in Salt Lake City, Utah. (Continued on Page 4)

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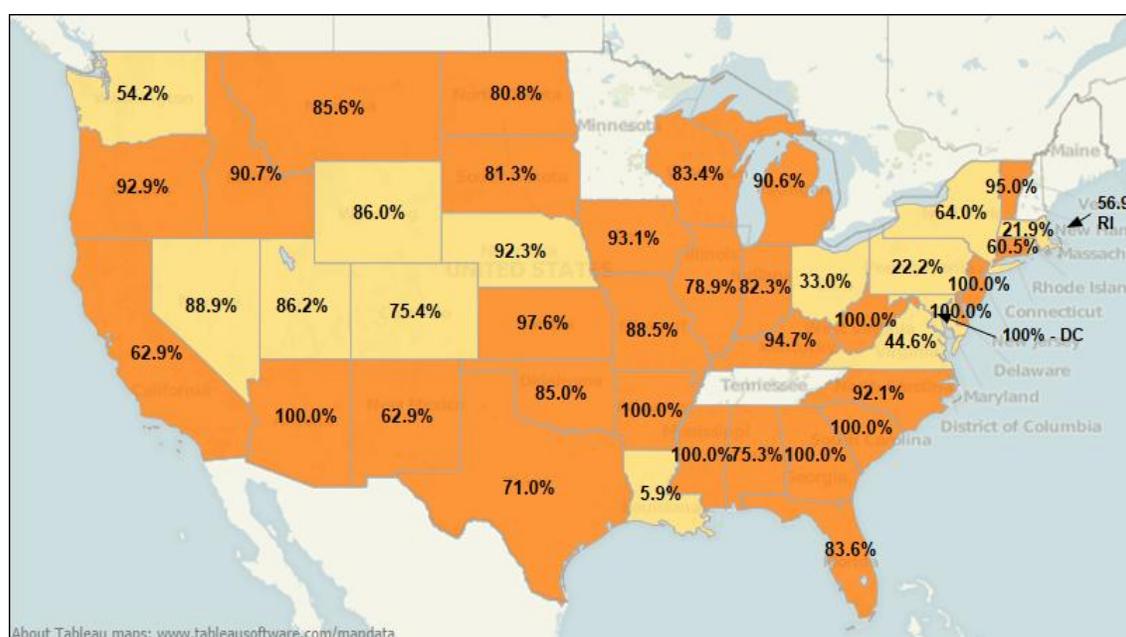


EMS Reassessment Update (Continued from Page 3)

Texas is in cohort 5, which closed on January 8, 2014. Our final response rate was 71%, or 326 agencies responding. The effort put forth by participating departments is greatly appreciated by the EMSC Texas State Partnership. The EMSC Texas State Partnership would also like to thank the DSHS Office of EMS and Trauma Systems and the Regional Advisory Councils (RACs) Chairs and Directors for their help in contacting participating departments.

As soon as the statewide results are received, they will be studied and compiled in a report that will be presented to stakeholders throughout the state. The results will also be available on the Texas State Partnership's EMS for Children website at www.bcm.edu/pediatrics/emsc.

To see how states are currently doing, please visit the EMSC Survey page at <http://emscsurveys.org>. The states colored in orange are ones whose cohorts have already closed.



EMSC Crew of the Year Award Nominations Being Accepted

National EMSC Day places a spotlight on the delivery of high-quality emergency medical care for children, focusing on the unique needs of critically ill or injured pediatric patients and the challenges faced by EMS professionals in meeting those needs. As 2014 marks the 30th Anniversary of the EMS for Children program, hundreds of communities around the nation are planning special events to honor the men and women who provide emergency care to our children. This is also an opportunity to raise awareness about safety and prevention and the ongoing need to improve and expand specialized care for children in the prehospital setting.

In honor of EMSC Day 2014 and the 30th Anniversary of the EMS for Children Program, the Texas EMSC State Partnership is now accepting nominations for the sixth annual EMSC Crew of the Year Award. This award is granted to an EMS crew or station who has displayed outstanding care for a child in an emergency medical or trauma event, demonstrated exceptional effort in the development of pediatric training or quality improvement programs, or was instrumental in planning and conducting creative injury prevention programs.

Recipients will receive a special lunch celebration, individual certificates of appreciation, and a plaque for their station or crew quarters recognizing them as champions in the emergency care for children in Texas. This celebration will take place during EMS Week.

To submit a nomination for the EMSC Crew of the Year, please send the following information to EMSC Program Manager Sam Vance by February 7, 2014 at Samuel.Vance@bcm.edu

- (1) Names and titles of crew members
- (2) Agency or organization with contact information
- (3) A brief (500 words or less) description of the event or program and why you feel this crew deserves special honor and recognition
- (4) Your contact information (will not be disclosed without your permission)

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NEW EMSC LOGO DRAWING CONTEST



Current Logo

The 30th Anniversary of the EMS for Children Program is in 2014. To help celebrate this anniversary, the EMS for Children Texas State Partnership is holding a contest to draw a new logo. The contest will take place from November 25th, 2013 through February 7th, 2014.

The winner will be chosen by the EMS for Children Advisory Committee at their February meeting. The winner will be announced publicly on EMS for Children Day 2014, which is Wednesday, May 21, 2014 during EMS Week. The winner will be awarded a \$100 gift card, a framed copy of their drawing, and will have their logo displayed on the Texas EMS for Children website, letterhead, and anywhere else that the logo is displayed statewide and nationwide.

Anyone who is a resident of the State of Texas is eligible to participate. The EMSC Texas State Partnership would like to encourage the participation of not only our EMS and hospital colleagues, but our state's elementary and secondary school students as well. Please feel free to pass this information on to your local school districts.

All drawings submitted must have a minimum of the following:

- The word "Texas" and/or a picture of the State of Texas
- A picture of the EMSC Teddy Bear in some form
- Must include the acronym "EMSC" or have spelled out "EMS for Children" or "Emergency Medical Services for Children"

Beginning November 25th, you may obtain a copy of the contest entry form and rules by visiting the EMS for Children State Partnership, Texas website at: www.bcm.edu/pediatrics/emsc or contact EMSC Program Manager Sam Vance at:

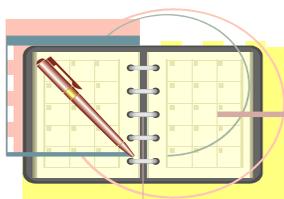
Program Manager
EMSC State Partnership, Texas
1102 Bates Ave., Suite 1850
Houston, TX 77030
Office: 832-824-6028
Email: Samuel.Vance@bcm.edu

Final Thought

“Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn’t do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover.” —

[Mark Twain](#)

Upcoming Events Mark Your Calendar



- EMSC Advisory Committee Meeting: Feb. 13 in Austin, TX.
- [Governor's EMS and Trauma Advisory Council Meeting \(GETAC\)](#): Feb. 12 - 14 in Austin, TX
- [Texas Hospital Association Annual Conference and Expo](#): Feb. 13 - 14 in San Antonio, TX EMS
- [State of the Science: A Gathering of Eagles XVI](#): Feb. 28 - Mar. 1 in Addison, TX