



# The Pony Express

Improving emergency medical care for children all across Texas



Volume 7, Issue 2  
Summer 2015



It appears that the rains and flooding have finally stopped and we are now experiencing the long, hot days of summer. As such, we have an article reminding everyone about the dangers of leaving a child in a hot car.

May 18 – 22 was National EMS Week and Wednesday, May 20 was National EMS for Children Day. During this week we awarded our 2015 EMS for Children Crew of the Year. This continues to be my favorite event as we get to recognize individuals for doing such outstanding work with pediatrics throughout the state. This is always an amazing experience that honors the recipients and their communities. We are now accepting nominations for the 2016 EMS for Children Crew of the Year. Please visit our [website](#) for information on how to nominate a crew.

To help celebrate EMS for Children Day on May 20<sup>th</sup>, the Texas State Partnership presented the Panhandle Pediatric Conference in conjunction with Regional Advisory Council "A". This was a great conference that featured several pediatric experts from around the state.

In this edition we feature [Covenant Children's Hospital](#) in Lubbock. We began this feature in our last edition to showcase our children's hospitals throughout the state and the services they provide.

Congratulations to our very own Dr. Manish Shah, Director of the EMS for Children State Partnership, Texas! Dr. Shah was appointed to a two-year term on the [National Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council](#) by U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx.

Lastly, the EMS for Children State Partnership, Texas has finally joined the 21<sup>st</sup> century and is now on Facebook. A big "thank you" to Debbie Suniga and the [Children's Hospital Association of Texas](#) for helping us with this. Come check us out!



**Covenant Children's Strives to be a Home Away from Home**  
Playrooms and other facilities let kids be kids and gives parents a place to relax.

By Leslie Cranford

[Covenant Children's](#) in Lubbock, Texas, is the only licensed, full-service pediatric hospital in the region, and one of only eight in the entire state of Texas. Serving a 62-county area, Covenant Children's is the only licensed children's hospital between El Paso and Ft. Worth, providing the West Texas and Eastern New Mexico region with the best possible pediatric care – an extension of our sacred mission of healing.

To ensure families can always get the help they need close to home, we've assembled the largest staff of pediatric specialists in the region and offer a comprehensive scope of services, ranging from emergency and trauma care to oncology, neurology and gastroenterology. Covenant Children's offers a Level 1 pediatric intensive care unit staffed 24/7 by board-certified intensivists, a Level III C neonatal intensive care unit and ECMO services.

Covenant Children's is a Level III Pediatric Trauma Center, the only one designated in our region; it also has the region's only emergency center specifically for children, staffed 24 hours a day by specialized physicians and certified RNs trained in emergency care of critically ill and injured children. The pediatric emergency department has its own entrance and is equipped with the latest medical technology designed for pediatric patients.

But take a closer look, and you'll see this is no ordinary hospital. This 73-bed facility has a playful, kid-friendly atmosphere designed to put children at ease. The halls are filled with staff members who make it their life's work to meet the unique physical, emotional and developmental needs of children.

When it comes to healing a child, there's no substitute for the love and support of family members. That's why Covenant Children's has a strong family-centered approach that integrates parents and siblings as participants in care giving, whenever possible, and is committed to providing parents with the information they need.

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Mail Pouch

## EMSC State Partnership, TX

Check out the [EMSC State Partnership website](#) at

[www.bcm.edu/pediatrics/emsc](http://www.bcm.edu/pediatrics/emsc)

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



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## Congratulations to the Cy-Fair Volunteer Fire Department, Memorial Hermann LifeFlight, and the Harris County Sheriff's Department: 2015 EMS for Children Crew of the Year

Each year to help celebrate EMS for Children Day, the 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 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.



We are proud to announce that a crew from the [Cy-Fair Volunteer Fire Department \(VFD\)](#), [Memorial Hermann LifeFlight](#), and the [Harris County Sheriff's Department](#) has received the 2015 EMS for Children Crew of the Year Award for outstanding care of a child in a trauma event.

Crew members from [Cy-Fair VFD](#) include: Geri Kern, Scherria Miller, Jennifer Miller, Courtney Johnson, Matt Perkins, Brent Scalise, Greg Landeche, Joe Villareal, Michael Tamborello, Micheal Bravo, Travis Combs, John Heydle, and Tim Weiman.

Crew Members from [Memorial Hermann LifeFlight](#) are: Chris Oliver, Kelly Junker, Charlae DeMars, and Damon Sanger.

Deputies from the [Harris County Sheriff's Department](#) are: Huey Townley and Peter Smith Dispatchers from the Cy-Fair VFD communications center. Stacy Job, Chris Melton, Tracy Martin, Ashley Casteel, and Chris Greene.

[Harris County Sheriff's Department](#) Dispatchers: Mary Edge and Tim Staten

Following is the nomination received:

*On February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2015 personnel from multiple agencies including the Harris County Sherriff's Department, the Cy-Fair Volunteer Fire Department and Memorial Hermann Life Flight responded to a 911 call for help. The units responding were advised they were en route to an assault in progress, a stabbing involving a pediatric patient.*

*Harris County Deputies arrived on scene to witness an adult female beating a small child in the driveway. They reacted immediately to stop the assault and detain the adult female. The child was unresponsive and bleeding. The deputies covered him with a blanket and applied pressure to his wounds.*

*The Cy-Fair Volunteer Fire Department EMS Supervisor arrived, followed by the medic unit and engine. On EMS arrival the child was pale, unconscious and in respiratory distress. He had suffered multiple stab wounds and had severe bruising to his head, face and other areas of his body. Memorial Herman LifeFlight was dispatched to the scene.*

*The Cy-Fair Volunteer Fire Department worked seamlessly with HCSO to assume care of the child and began advanced life support care. The child was carried into the medic unit where his vital signs were monitored, he was intubated and multiple IV lines were established. We had four Paramedics in the back of the unit that day who all happen to be mothers. Not only were they providing excellent medical care they also kept reassuring the patient that he was not alone and he was going to be okay. The patient's pulse rate decreased and he went into an irregular cardiac rhythm that was treated quickly with medication.*

*Memorial Herman Lifelight arrived on scene and care was transferred over. Once in the helicopter the patient went into cardiac arrest. CPR and further advanced life support measures were taken by the Lifelight crew until they arrived at Memorial Hermann downtown where the patient was successfully resuscitated in the ER.*

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*This was one of the most horrific scenes some of these personnel have ever responded to. After the helicopter lifted off from the scene, officers were seen falling to their knees in tears. Paramedics and Fire Personnel were visibly upset and too shocked to speak.*

*The child is alive today and is a survivor of a horrendous attack because multiple agencies across our community came together and responded with compassion and professionalism to reach the same goal. Not one person alone saved this child. We were not individuals this day, but one team.*



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## The Most Important Safety Initiative for Children

The [Pediatric Readiness Assessment](#) revealed that half of the hospitals in the nation do not weigh and record in kilograms. In Texas, only 51% of our hospitals weigh and record their pediatric patient's weight in kilograms. This is a concern because of all the ways that pediatric patients can be harmed during treatment, medication errors are the most common and most preventable. Developmental differences and dosing complexities unique to pediatrics put children at high risk for both medication errors and for serious consequences as a result of these errors. In contrast to adult medication doses (which are often standard, unit-doses), pediatric medication doses are weight-based; based specifically upon the patient's weight in kilograms. Determining the correct dose of a pediatric medication typically requires multiple calculations, and adult concentrations of drugs must often be diluted for pediatric administration. A 2009 analysis of 479 medication errors involving wrong weights discovered that over 25% were due to "confusion between pounds and kilograms".

Weighing and documenting pediatric weights only in kilograms has been repeatedly recommended in the literature as a strategy to decrease medication errors not only in the emergency department, but throughout the inpatient encounter ([Joint Policy Statement Weighing Pediatric Patients in Kilograms, 2012](#)).

Having a pediatric emergency care coordinator is the single most important item that hospitals can implement to ensure pediatric readiness and patient safety.

The National [EMSC Data Analysis Resource Center \(NEDARC\)](#) has created an infographic based on data from the Pediatric Readiness Assessment. The infographic states the importance of weighing children and recording the weight in kilograms, based on a patient safety recommendation from the '[Guidelines for Care of Children in the Emergency Department.](#)' The infographic can be found on page 4.





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## The **MOST IMPORTANT SAFETY INITIATIVE** for **CHILDREN**

Hospitals should

**WEIGH & RECORD**  
children in  
**KILOGRAMS**

only **1** in **2**  
Hospitals Weigh and Record in Kilograms\*

Not Weighing and Recording in KG can lead to  
**Drug Dosing ERRORS**

Having a **PEDIATRIC Emergency Care Coordinator** is the single most important item that hospitals can implement to ensure pediatric readiness including patient safety.\*

[www.pediatricreadiness.org](http://www.pediatricreadiness.org)

\* Gausche-Hill M, Ely M, Schmuhl P, Telford R, Remick K, Edgerton E, Olson L. A National Assessment of Pediatric Readiness of Emergency. *JAMA Pediatrics*. Published online April 13, 2015. doi:10.1001/jamapediatrics.2015.138.



### Did you know?

Did you know that per the Pediatric Readiness Assessment, 63.8% of Texas hospitals have a pediatric nurse coordinator and 50% have a pediatric physician coordinator?



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## Help NHTSA Spread Heatstroke Prevention and Awareness From EMSC Quicknews

The summer is heating up and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) heatstroke prevention and awareness efforts are in full swing. This marks the fourth summer that NHTSA has spread awareness about the dangers of child heatstroke in hot cars, while urging parents and caregivers to think, "***Where's Baby? Look Before You Lock.***" Since 1998, over 630 children in America have died from heatstroke. Over half, 53 percent to be exact, were forgotten in vehicles; 29 percent gained access by themselves and became trapped; and 17 percent were left intentionally by adults not fully aware of the dangers. Already, eight children this year and more than 30 children in 2014 lost their lives from heatstroke after adults left them in unattended vehicles.

Heatstroke tragedies are 100-percent preventable, which is why NHTSA is looking for every opportunity to educate consumers on the importance of making sure that children are neither unintentionally locked in, nor able to gain access to (and become trapped in) unattended vehicles. NHTSA is asking highway traffic safety partners to ramp up activities this summer to augment the national effort. NHTSA is offering tools to assist in communicating with the public. This **resource** includes information on:

- Using the Latest Campaign Materials;
- using Social Media to Get the Word Out; and
- upcoming Opportunities for Your Calendar.

More information can be found at:

**English:** [www.safercar.gov/parents/InandAroundtheCar/heat-involved.html](http://www.safercar.gov/parents/InandAroundtheCar/heat-involved.html)

**Spanish:** [www.safercar.gov/parents/InandAroundtheCar/hipertermia-involved.htm](http://www.safercar.gov/parents/InandAroundtheCar/hipertermia-involved.htm)



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## Shah appointed to NEMSAC

[Dr. Manish Shah](#), assistant professor of pediatrics, Section of Emergency Medicine Baylor College of Medicine and Director of the EMS for Children State Partnership, Texas was appointed by the U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary to a two-year term to represent the sector of pediatric emergency physicians on the [National Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council](#). The purpose of NEMSAC is to serve as a nationally recognized council of emergency medical services representatives to provide and consult with the [Federal Interagency Committee on Emergency Medical Services](#) and the Secretary of Transportation on matters relating to EMS on a national level.





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## The Panhandle Pediatric Conference

To help celebrate EMS for Children Day on May 20<sup>th</sup>, the Texas State Partnership presented the Panhandle Pediatric Conference in conjunction with [Regional Advisory Council "A"](#). This was a great conference that featured several pediatric experts from around the state. If you would like to have a pediatric conference in your region, contact EMS for Children Program Manager, Sam Vance at 832-824-EMSC or [Samuel.Vance@bcm.edu](mailto:Samuel.Vance@bcm.edu)



Dr. Manish Shah from Texas Children's Hospital in Houston presents, "Pediatric Evidence-Based Guidelines (PEGASUS)"



Dr. Nancy Onisko from University of Texas Southwestern/Parkland Memorial Hospital in Dallas presents, "Pediatric Poisonings/ Toxicologic Exposures"

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## Covenant Children's Strives to be a Home Away from Home Playrooms and other facilities let kids be kids and gives parents a place to relax (Continued from page 1)

### The Lindsey Callaway Playroom

The Callaway family became part of the Covenant Children's family when their daughter Lindsey was diagnosed with a malignant brain tumor in 1998. In January 2001, Lindsey lost her battle with cancer at the age 16. During Lindsey's stay, the staff of Covenant Children's grew close to the Callaway family, recognizing the significant impact Lindsey had on everyone.



After her death, Lindsey's family and friends talked about the countless hours she had spent in the hospital and what could be done to make the stay for children and their families less "hospital-like."

Rick Callaway, a member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, approached his home lodge in Roswell, N.M., about the possibility of a toy drive to benefit the children at Covenant. In its first year, the Lindsay Callaway Toy Drive netted some cash and two to three bags of toys in the back of an SUV.

Since 2001, Rick and Tracy Callaway, with the help of friends and family, have donated more than \$300,000 worth of toys and monetary contributions to the children's hospital in honor of Lindsey.

In 2008, the playroom on the third floor of the hospital was named "Lindsey's Room" in her honor. In the latter part of 2014, the playroom was renovated, and after last December's toy drive and delivery, the ribbon was cut for Lindsey's Park, the newly remodeled playroom.

Lindsey's sister Jessie, who was a youngster at the time of her sister's death, was truly moved by the kind and caring staff, which provided a great example of the compassionate care that makes up the heart of Covenant Children's.



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Jessie made it a personal goal to become a pediatric nurse after experiencing firsthand what a difference they make in the world. In the fall of 2011, this dream became a reality as Jessie joined the staff at Covenant Children's.

## Teen Town

Previously there was very little for teenagers to do while hospitalized at Covenant Children's. Teens typically stayed in their rooms because the existing playroom was not very enticing to them. In May 2014, Covenant Children's opened a special place exclusively for its teenaged patients.

Teen Town includes two giant flat screen televisions, PlayStation, Xbox, photo booth, karaoke machine, snacks, drinks, games, movies and more, as well as two large graffiti walls.

Teen Town gives teen patients the opportunity to leave their room, yet still be in a medically secure and supervised setting where they can interact with friends, siblings or other teen patients without interruption by medical staff, engage in fun activities and encourage their physical and mental activity through the use of gaming systems and other activities.



## A Place for Parents – the Family Resource Center

The Family Resource Center, which opened its doors in August 2014, provides support for families and caretakers of patients at Covenant Children's. The center offers a comfortable, non-medical environment where parents or caretakers can obtain education, information and support while their child is treated just down the hall. The space offers a library and computer center, a relaxation/meditative space, an education area, a hospitality area and a family learning center. Amenities include journaling classes, lunch-and-learn sessions, parent-to-parent support and provision of toiletries for unexpected hospitalizations. Family Resource Centers are an integral part of other top-level children's hospitals across the country.

## Storytellers Recording Studio

In April of this year, Covenant Children's was blessed to be able to open the Storytellers Recording Studio. The purpose of the songwriting/recording studio is to afford patients and families the opportunity to express themselves through music. The equipment offered in the studio aids in the healing process by allowing self-expression for the patient and family. The studio incorporates recording equipment, microphones, keyboard, drums (including an electric drum set) and a wide assortment of other instruments, ranging from guitars to xylophones. There also is a computer for recording and editing software, and a laptop to be used for bedside recording for patients and families who cannot come to the studio.

The studio provides patients and families the opportunity to write and record original songs with music therapists, as well as professional songwriters. Another goal is to provide space where patients and families can play instruments together and record themselves. The recordings can then be edited and mixed with other tracks using the recording software. They are able to have their own CD to take home, and they can use their music to convey their thoughts and feelings with others. The studio may also be used to record lullabies written for antepartum and NICU families. Some of these specific songs may be used in perinatal bereavement where the child's heartbeat is recorded as part of a song.

## Timmy's Playroom

Just this month, Covenant Children's opened Timmy's Playroom, generously provided by the Tim Tebow Foundation. The space provides developmental play opportunities for children ages three and older and contributes to patient/family coping, satisfaction and the healing process. The space fills an age gap and meets the developmental needs that the hospital's other two playrooms are not able to meet.



Each of Timmy's Playrooms is completely customized with a football field floor, football chairs, custom wall graphics, a helmet-shaped table for arts and crafts, specially-built lockers, a Bible verse banner and a jumbotron entertainment center, stocked with the latest video games, DVDs and electronics.

Covenant Children's playroom is the seventh official Timmy's Playroom, and the Tim Tebow Foundation has 11 more Timmy's Playrooms on the horizon (eight international and three within the United States).

Future plans for Covenant Children's include a performing arts theater, a food garden and teaching kitchen that will provide a fun food experience designed to educate our youngest patients and their families, and a therapeutic playground designed to provide therapeutic respite for pediatric patients as they learn to exercise and play with new and ongoing physical challenges.



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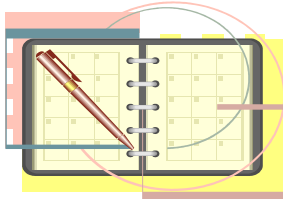


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## Final Thought

Make no little plans; they have no magic to stir men's blood and probably themselves will not be realized. Make big plans; aim high in hope and work, remembering that a noble, logical diagram once recorded will not die, but long after we are gone be a living thing, asserting itself with ever-growing insistence. ~ Daniel Hudson Burnham

## Upcoming Events Mark Your Calendar



- [EMS for Children Advisory Committee Meeting:](#)  
August 18 at Dell Children's Hospital, Austin, TX
- [Governor's EMS and Trauma Advisory Council:](#)  
August 19 - 21 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Austin, TX
- [2015 Texas Pediatric Society Annual Meeting:](#)  
October 1 - 4 at the Sugarland Marriott Town Square, Sugarland, TX
- [22<sup>nd</sup> Annual CHAT Pediatric Nursing Conference:](#)  
October 16 - 17 at the Holiday Inn Downtown Marina, Corpus Christi, TX
- [2015 Preparedness Coalition Symposium:](#) November 4 - 6 at the Galveston Island Convention Center, Galveston, TX
- [Texas EMS Conference:](#) November 22 - 25 at the Kay Bailey Hutchinson Convention Center, Dallas, TX