

FAN



EMSC Family Advisory Network Newsletter

Summer 2008 Issue

EMSC Recognizes Family Representatives for Years of Dedicated Service

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Nineteen Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) state family representatives were recognized on June 26, during the 2008 National Heroes Award ceremony for their commitment to EMSC and for their long-standing service as representatives to the EMSC Family Advisory Network (FAN).

The following 12 individuals have served as family representatives for at least five years:

Julie Bartling

Julie has volunteered as the South Dakota EMSC family representative for five years. She also serves as a state senator and has been a great supporter and advocate for EMSC. As a mother whose son suffered a traumatic brain injury, Julie brings a unique passion and perspective to the state program.

Linda Eckfeld

As co-founders of Progeny Family Training Center, Linda and her husband Tom are the proud parents of more than 50 foster children, many of whom have a special health care need. The center provides physical, psychological, spiritual, and social care for medically fragile children. Their work through Progeny has led to numerous



awards, including the Sertoma Service to Mankind Award, the Columbus Dispatch Community Service Award, the Ohio

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Did You Know?

Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) State Partnership grantees are required to have a family representative on their EMSC Advisory Committee. As of December 2007, 73% of the EMSC State Partnership grantees had a family representative. Five EMSC grantees had more than one representative. These individuals support EMSC grantees by: serving on a variety of committees and advisory councils; providing a consumer's perspective in the development of EMS policies, procedures, rules, and regulation; and participating in public education campaigns and other community outreach activities.



New Tools Now Available for Family Representatives

Getting Started, Staying Involved: An EMSC Toolkit for Family Representatives

The EMSC National Resource Center (NRC) released *Getting Started, Staying Involved: An EMSC Toolkit for Family Representatives* during the 2008 EMSC Annual Grantee Meeting. The toolkit provides helpful tips for getting started and staying involved in the planning and implementation of state EMSC activities. In addition, the toolkit provides ideas for maintaining an effective working relationship with the state EMSC program manager, recruiting community partners, and educating legislators. *Getting Started* is available in hard copy (limited quantities), CD-ROM format, and



online at www.childrensnational.org/emsc. Once here click on “Publications and Resources.”

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FAN Mail is a publication of the EMSC National Resource Center, located in Silver Spring, MD.

FAN Mail is distributed semi-annually to an alliance of family representatives from states, territories, and the District of Columbia who actively support state emergency medical services for children (EMSC) program initiatives. The Federal EMSC Program is supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration’s Maternal and Child Health Bureau. FAN members work with their state EMSC managers to ensure that family-centered care (FCC) is incorporated into prehospital and hospital healthcare systems across the nation.

Family representatives may contact the EMSC National Resource Center for FCC-related resources to excel in their leadership roles and to guide in their efforts to implement FCC in their area.

FAN Mail welcomes articles on people, programs, and activities related to family representative participation in the administration of the emergency medical care of children activities. All manuscripts, artwork, and photography should be submitted to Theresa Morrison-Quinata at tmquinat@cnmc.org.

Patient- and Family-Centered Care of Children in the Emergency Department

Providing patient- and family-centered care to children in the emergency department (ED) setting presents many opportunities and challenges. This technical report draws on previously published policy statements and reports, reviews the current literature, and describes the present state of practice and research regarding patient- and family-centered care for children in the ED setting as well as some of the complexities of providing such care.

Pediatrics 2008;122:e511-e521; originally published online Jul 28, 2008 at <http://www.pediatrics.org/cgi/content/full/122/2/e511>.

How Important Are Family Reps In the Grand Scheme of EMSC? (Web-based Training)

The NRC will host a series of web-based seminars on the EMSC performance measures designed specifically for state EMSC family representatives. The goals of the webinars are to educate family representatives about the significance of the measures and to help representatives move each of the measures forward. The webinars will take place on November 20, 2008; February 20, 2009; and May 20, 2009. More information about each will be announced at a later date.

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Association of Medical Equipment Services Caring Partners Award, and the Bridge of Hope Award. Linda has provided testimony to both the Ohio House and Senate regarding children with special health care needs. She was the only “non-professional” invited to sit on a national panel in Washington, D.C., regarding health care delivery to children with special health care needs. Linda has been the Ohio EMSC program’s family representative for six years.

Donene Feist

Donene has volunteered as the North Dakota family representative for the last eight years. Prior to this, Donene worked for the state’s Family to Family Network, helping families of children with disabilities by providing information, training, referral, and support. She was also the state coordinator and then director for North Dakota Family Voices, a national grassroots network of families and friends that advocates for health care services and provides information for families with children and youth with special health care needs.

NRC Hosts Town Hall Conference Calls; Invites FAN Participation

In the spring of 2008, the Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) National Resource Center (NRC) launched a new open-ended forum involving all state and territory grantees and members of the NRC’s technical assistance team. During these quarterly calls, grantees are encouraged to ask questions, express concerns, and voice observations on any topic of their choosing. Family Advisory Network (FAN) members are encouraged to attend. Listed below is information for the next two conference calls.

October 7, 2008, from 2 pm to 4 pm (EDT). The conference toll-free call-in number is (877) 355-6338 or (202) 476-6338. When prompt to do so, enter Meeting ID# 9753.

January 6, 2009, from 2 pm to 4 pm (EDT). The conference toll-free call-in number is (877) 355-6338 or (202) 476-6338. When prompt to do so, enter Meeting ID# 9753.

Donna Habrock

For the last five years, Donna has volunteered as the Nebraska EMSC family representative. She was drawn to EMSC because of her personal experience with a brother who has special needs. Donna is an active member on the statewide Injury Prevention Committee and the EMSC Advisory Committee. Recently, Donna was successful in working with a state legislator to pass the Safe Haven Act, a law that allows parents — or another person who has the parent’s authorization — to leave an infant up to 14 days old at a hospital or health care facility without fear of prosecution for abandonment. Currently, Donna volunteers for the Child Advocacy Center in Norfolk, NE.

Erika Kravic

In addition to being the family representative for Kentucky’s EMSC program since 2001, Erika has spent the last 17 years working for the Office of Child Advocacy, a department within Kosair Children’s Hospital in Louisville, KY. For the last 18 years, she also served as a coordinator for the Safe Kids campaign in Louisville and Jefferson County, KY.

Melody Mesmer

Melody has served as the parent representative for the Colorado EMSC program since 2003. She is currently a registered paramedic, a volunteer for a fire protection service, an emergency medical technician, and a PALS (Pediatric Advanced Life Support) and PEPP (Pediatric Education for Prehospital Professionals) instructor. No matter what hat she wears, she is always actively promoting the need for family-centered care. In 2006, Melody received the Family Member Volunteer of the Year Award from the Federal EMSC Program.

Sandra Nasca

Being Florida’s EMSC family representative for the last seven years is just one of many volunteer activities in which Sandra participates. She also serves on the Statewide EMS Advisory Council Public Information, Education, and Relations Committee, and is an active member on the Task Force on Foster Care Reform. Currently, she is the assistant program coordinator for SAFE TRAK, a new program at the St. John’s County Sheriff’s office. SAFE TRAK facilitates the recovery of participants prone to wander (young or old), by utilizing radio frequency tracking devices.

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Kelly Roderick

Kelly has volunteered as Maine's EMSC family representative for six years. She serves as the chair of the state's EMSC committee, is an inhalant abuse instructor, and is the statewide PEPP course coordinator.

Elizabeth "Betsy" Smith

Betsy has volunteered as the Virginia EMSC family representative since 2002. She is a paramedic and a flight nurse for the PHI AirCare 5 Medevac. Betsy's greatest impact on EMSC has been the countless hours she has devoted to children with special health care needs. She co-authored the Special Children's Outreach and Prehospital Education program (more commonly referred to as SCOPE). In 2007, Betsy received the Provider Leadership Award from the Federal EMSC Program.

John Susa

In partnership with his wife Connie, John has served as the Red-River's EMSC FAN liaison. He also serves in numerous community and family leadership organizations. Currently, he is the chair of the Rhode Island Developmental Disabilities Council Parent Empowerment Committee. John is also an associate professor (in research) of pediatrics at Brown University. He has volunteered as the Rhode Island EMSC family representative for the last eight years.

Judy Taylor

Judy brings extensive experience to her role as a family representative for Vermont's EMSC program. She has been a prehospital emergency professional for the last 22 years and currently serves as a PEPP course coordinator. She also volunteers as an instructor for the 100 Proof-DWI/DUI Interdiction and Prevention program at local junior high and high schools and volunteers her time to teach first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation courses to students seeking careers in the medical profession. In addition to her eight years of EMSC volunteer service, Judy promotes child safety programs and encourages medical professionals to seek additional pediatric medical training.

Evelyn Wolfe

Evelyn has been involved with EMS since 1985. She has been a member of the Johnson County, IA, Safe Kids coalition since 1996 and became involved with

the Iowa EMSC program in 1999 when she became a certified child passenger safety seat technician. She has served as a lead instructor for the state EMSC speaker's bureau, as well as spearheaded numerous injury prevention initiatives. Evelyn has also assisted in reviewing "Love Our Kids" injury prevention grants that are sponsored by the Iowa EMSC program. During the first phase of the Kids Defibrillator program she assisted in assuring EMS services had an AED that had pediatric capability.

Seven individuals were recognized for serving for at least 10 years in their current capacity as family representatives. They include:

MaryEllen Brock

MaryEllen has been a member of the New Jersey EMSC Advisory Council since its inception in 1992. She is the past president of the New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs, and through her involvement with the Women's Clubs, has helped foster a number of emergency medical services and pediatric safety focused projects in the state and across the nation. She has traveled to national EMSC grantee meetings as well as Mid-Atlantic EMSC regional events, bringing the perspective of a mom to each and every event and activity.

Carolyn Ferolito

Carolyn has been a member of the New Jersey EMSC Advisory Council since its inception in 1992. She served as vice-chair for the first 12 years of the Council's existence. Carolyn continues to be a tireless advocate for EMSC issues in the legislative arena, which began when she lobbied for the state's enabling EMSC legislation. She has traveled to numerous Annual EMSC Grantee Meetings, helping attendees to maintain their focus on the children and their families.

Shauna Hatton-Ward

Shauna has volunteered as the Utah EMSC family representative for 11 years. In 2007, Shauna was awarded the Federal Program's EMSC Family Representative of the Year award. She serves on her state's EMSC Advisory Committee, is a member of the Intermountain Regional EMS for Children Coordinating Council Board, and has been extensively involved with the development and implementation of Utah's Medical Emergency Health Information Sheet for Children with Special Health Care Needs.

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Martha Jean Madison

In addition to her 13 years of volunteer service as the New Hampshire EMSC family representative, Martha served on the advisory committee for the “Traumatic Brain Injury in Children and Teens: A Guide for Families” manual. She also assisted in the development of the Special Kids Information Program (SKIP) for EMS providers. Martha-Jean is a member of the EMSC Advisory Committee and is participating in the development of the New Hampshire Medical Needs Sheltering Plan.

Donna Meyers

Donna has volunteered as the Oklahoma EMSC family representative for 12 years. She is the EMS program coordinator for the Eastern Oklahoma County Technology Center and an instructor of EMS programs. Donna is also a PALS, PEPP, and Advanced Cardiac Life Support instructor. She is a child passenger restraint instructor and was the leading force behind recently passed child safety seat legislation that requires children up to 12 years to be properly restrained.

Murney Rinholm

Murney has been actively involved in the North Carolina EMSC Program since 1998. She is a member of the state’s EMSC Advisory Committee and co-developer of the state’s Kids Information Database Access

Murney Rinholm

System for Emergencies (KIDBASE). The KIDBASE project helps to better prepare EMS to manage the unique medical needs of children with special health care needs. The database identifies special needs kids in the community and registers their medical information with the local EMS agency.



Dan Kavanaugh, Ruth Walden, and Tee Morrison-Quinata

Ruth Walden

Ruth has volunteered as the New York EMSC family representative for 10 years. In addition to her volunteer work with EMSC, she is the current president of Family Voices. Ruth is also a family specialist with the New York State Department of Health’s Bureau of Adolescent and Child Health.

The EMSC Program would like to thank all FAN members for their dedication and commitment to enhancing EMSC in their states.

NRC Debuts New Website, Incorporates New “For Families” Section

Are you a parent or caregiver who is interested in becoming involved in activities designed to improve the health care children receive in an emergency situation? Are you already involved in your state’s emergency medical services for children (EMSC) program? If you answered ‘yes’ to either question, then check out the new “For Families” section on the recently revamped EMSC National Resource Center website, located at www.childrensnational.org/emsc. Once here, click on “For Families.”

The “For Families” section features information on the Family Advisory Network (FAN), state-by-state contact information for FAN representatives, and the latest issues of *FAN Mail*.