

PEDIATRIC CARE COMMITTEE (PCC)

January 13, 2021
MEETING MINUTES

Call to Order
Kathleen Adalgais Kathleen Adalgais, Chair, called the Pediatric Emergency Care committee meeting to order at approximately 3:00 p.m. Attendance was exclusively via videoconference or teleconference.

Roll Call
Kathleen Adalgais

Dr. Kathleen Adalgais	SEMTAC, Chair, EMSC Project Dir.	Present
Lana Martin	RN with TNC and peds experience	Absent
Dr. Christine Darr	Emergency physician	Present
Audrey Jennings	Paramedic with peds experience	Present
Cynthia Joseph	RN with peds experience	Absent
Jeff Force	EMS educator with peds experience	Absent
Amanda Abramczyk-Thill	EMTS Injury committee rep.	Present
Marc Burdick	Public Policy and Finance rep.	Present
Nicolena Mitchell	Member at large	Present
Erin Selby	Member at large	Present
Stacey Quesada	Executive secretary	Present
Eileen Brown	CDPHE liaison	Present
Dr. Angelique Ferayorni	EMSC Family Representative	Present

Guests

CDPHE Staff: Jeff Beckman, Lynn Garst, Dale Knochenmus, Matthew Paswaters, Kiva Thompson, Donnie Woodyard

Public members: Danny Barela, Tom Candlin, Terri Foechterle, Julie McFadden, Nicolena Mitchell, Sarah Moore, Caitlin Nave, Rebecca Peterson, Jeff Schanhals, Marilyn Sykes-Johnson, Ricka Sterner, Shirley Terry, Linda Underbrink

A quorum was established.

Approval of Minutes
Dr. Kathleen Adalgais Motion by Dr. Darr to approve the October meeting minutes as presented. Second by Amanda Abramczyk-Thill. The motion passed unanimously.

CDPHE Updates
Eileen Brown The trauma section is resuming designation reviews soon. They are working on developing three formats: in-person, hybrid, and remote. The trauma designation schedule is posted and up to date. There are also updated guidance documents for facilities and reviewers that address new aspects to trauma designations.

EMS providers with a bachelor's degree may now apply for EMS provider licensure. This option for those meeting specific education criteria in rule aligns with national nomenclature with no scope of practice changes.

The EMTS grant application period is open. There is an incentive category for injury prevention programs.

COVID-19 Updates Group

Stacey shared state-level pediatric COVID-19 data available from the Children's Hospital Association and the American Academy of Pediatrics. The most recent data show that children comprise 14.6% of total COVID-19 cases in Colorado, compared to 12.5% nationally. In addition, in Colorado, children represent 0.14% of COVID-related deaths, compared to 0.06% nationally. These monthly data reports can be accessed [here](#).

Dr. Beckman reported that statewide hospital capacity is being managed well. None of the alternate care sites have had to open. Most COVID-related efforts have turned to vaccination and prevention. There are still no data on how the vaccine will work for children. Currently, the Pfizer vaccine is approved for those 16 and older and the Moderna vaccine is approved for 18 and older. Children remain at the end of the phased vaccination schedule.

Revised Committee Bylaws

Dr. Kathleen Adalgais

Dr. Adalgais gave a summary of changes to the committee bylaws which include the following:

- New membership positions:
 - A representative of the SEMTAC Education Committee
 - Any additional Family Representatives designated by EMSC Colorado
- New name: Pediatric Care Committee (PCC)
- Committee will designate a vice-chair
- SEMTAC will appoint at least one member who is a Colorado licensed physician with pediatric training; members representing a SEMTAC committee shall be appointed by their respective committee, all other members shall be appointed by the chair
- COPPER and COPECC will be official subcommittees

Dr. Darr pointed out that neither of the two physician positions on the committee require the person to be boarded in pediatric emergency medicine. The committee suggested inquiring about changing the requirement for the SEMTAC pediatric physician position. Despite this pending inquiry, the committee agreed to proceed with voting to approve the new bylaws.

Dr. Darr motioned to approve the revised committee bylaws. Second by Dr. Ferayorni. The motion passed unanimously.

Marc Burdick volunteered to serve as the vice-chair until July when the vice-chair position opens up again. There were no objections by the committee.

Ongoing Projects

Stacey Quesada and Dr. Kathleen Adalgais

Mobile Simulation & Outreach Updates

The mobile simulation and outreach teams at Rocky Mountain Hospital for Children and EMS for Children/Children's Hospital Colorado reached a combined total of 5,464 providers in 2020. Due to COVID-19, most of their outreach and education events were conducted virtually. Both teams feel this was a benefit for rural hospitals and EMS agencies with limited access to this type of education.

Until in-person outreach and education resume, both teams continue to offer pediatric education through live webinars and online education, accessible at <https://www.emscolorado.com/education>.

COPPER Hospital ED Pediatric Readiness Program

The Colorado Pediatric Preparedness for the Emergency Room (COPPER) program is still in development. An application, letter of commitment, checklist, curriculum guide, resource library, and website are all close to completion. The program is likely to launch with pilot sites in early 2021. The steering committee continues to meet monthly.

National Pediatric Readiness Project Assessment

The National Pediatric Readiness Project Assessment was administered to Colorado emergency departments between September and December of 2020. Stacey gave an overview of the aggregate data from the assessment but cautioned against comparing 2020 and 2013 results due to differences in the assessments. The average pediatric readiness score in 2020 was 65.0. The average pediatric readiness score in 2013 was 71.0.

The 2020 data shows a significant drop in scores between the high-volume facilities (average score = 91.1) and all other facilities (average score = 62.8). A large factor in the lower scores for smaller facilities seems to be the absence of Nurse and Physician Pediatric Emergency Care Coordinators (PECCs). Significantly fewer facilities have PECCs than in 2013 (see data below).

	<u>2013</u>	<u>2020</u>
Nurse PECC	60.3%	17.1%
Physician PECC	48.7%	13.2%

The 2020 data also reveals a decrease in emergency departments that report having a pediatric patient care review process (36.8%) compared to 2013 (51.3%).

On the bright side, significantly more hospitals are conducting nurse and physician pediatric-specific competency evaluations than in 2013.

	<u>2013</u>	<u>2020</u>
Nurse Evaluations	64.1%	92.1%
Physician Evaluations	37.2%	61.8%

EMS for Children Survey

The 2021 EMS for Children Survey is live and will remain open until March 19, 2021. All EMS agencies have been emailed an invitation to complete the assessment. For questions, contact Stacey Quesada at stacey.quesada@cuanschultz.edu. Handouts summarizing data from previous EMS for Children surveys are located on the EMSC website at <https://www.emscolorado.com/ems-for-children-survey>.

COPECC Program and PECC Targeted Issues Grant

The Colorado Pediatric Emergency Care Coordinators (COPECC) program has a steering committee that meets monthly. The program will promote and support the implementation of Pediatric Emergency Care Coordinators (PECCs) at EMS agencies across the state. Anyone interested in serving on the committee may contact Stacey Quesada at stacey.quesada@cuanschutz.edu.

Five EMS agencies across Colorado are participating in a Targeted Issues grant investigating the effect of prehospital PECCs on child and family outcomes. A big component of this program includes simulation training which has had to be converted to remote simulation training due to COVID-19. The study teams have begun conducting chart reviews to assess variances in care. The study is in its second of four years but will likely be granted a no cost extension due to the pandemic.

Research Updates

Researchers from Nationwide Children's Hospital in Columbus, Ohio and Children's Hospital Colorado are conducting a study to identify barriers to recognizing pediatric sepsis during out-of-hospital encounters. They would like to recruit participants for two focus groups: one for EMS field providers and another for medical directors or EMS agency leaders. If interested, please contact Kathleen Adalgais at Kathleen.adalgais@childrenscolorado.org.

The asthma study conducted by researchers at Children's Hospital Colorado was accepted by the Journal of Asthma. The study found that 70% of children with known asthma exacerbations received beta agonists in the prehospital environment and only 7% received steroids.

Colorado Medicaid Overview

Dr. Angelique Ferayorni

Dr. Angelique Ferayorni, Senior Medical Director for Colorado Medicaid and eQ Health Solutions, gave an overview of Colorado's Medicaid program. Key points from her presentation included the following:

- Medicaid represents \$1 out of every \$6 spent on health care in the United States
 - The federal government guarantees matching funds to states for qualifying Medicaid expenses
 - Medicaid benefits cover a wide range of services including behavioral health services, dental services, emergency care, hospitalization, laboratory services, maternity and newborn care, outpatient care, etc.
 - CHP+ is free or low-cost public health care for children and pregnant women
 - Medicaid eligibility levels are determined by the states
 - In Colorado, parents of dependent children whose household income does not exceed 133% Federal Poverty Level are eligible for Medicaid
 - Children represent the largest population group covered by Medicaid but represent a small portion of the expenditures, compared to other
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population groups (e.g., individuals with disabilities, expansion adults, etc.)

- Hospitals represent the largest provider type that gets paid by Medicaid
- Medicaid's Accountable Care Collaborative (ACC) Program has two phases:
 - Phase I - Improve health and contain costs
 - Phase II - Integration of services under Regional Accountable Entity (RAE) with the goal of moving toward person-centered integrated and coordinated care
- Medicaid's Alternative Payment Methodology (APM) strives to empower patients to be partners
- The ultimate goal of the APM is to move to population-based payments, i.e., payments for value rather than payments for volume
- Achieving points would lead to enhanced payment under the APM framework and points are earned through hospitals' self-reported progress in structural and performance focus areas
- Medicaid's Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) benefit provides comprehensive and preventive health care services for children age 20 and younger who are enrolled in Medicaid
- For more information on the Colorado Medicaid program, go to <https://www.colorado.gov/hcpf>

Miscellaneous Updates Committee Membership Update Group

The following membership terms end this year:

- Colorado paramedic with experience and interest in pediatric care, ends 7/15/21, currently filled by Audrey Jennings
- Registered nurse with experience as a pediatric nurse, ends 7/15/21, currently filled by Cynthia Joseph
- EMS educator with experience and interest in pediatric care, ends 7/15/21, currently filled by Jeffrey Force
- Boarded emergency physician, ends 8/15/21, currently filled by Dr. Darr

Upcoming Events

Continue to check the [calendar](#) on the EMSC website for upcoming pediatric education events.

Adjournment Dr. Kathleen Adelgais adjourned the meeting at approximately 4:35 p.m.

Resources Meeting Documents:
<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1UnuRoNF9X4U9wtipNDGzFkGQ4pbOHhhs?usp=sharing>

New PCC Bylaws:
https://0411e90b-8f02-46fa-8563-fd8fa92b68a6.filesusr.com/ugd/751579_414db5845e08491ea2201c1c4de4c119.pdf

Children and COVID-19 State Data Reports by the Children's Hospital Association and American Academy of Pediatrics:

<https://services.aap.org/en/pages/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-infections/children-and-covid-19-state-level-data-report/>

Online pediatric education:

<https://www.emscolorado.com/education>

EMS for Children Survey Data:

<https://www.emscolorado.com/ems-for-children-survey>

EMSC Colorado Calendar:

<https://www.emscolorado.com/upcoming-events>

Colorado Medicaid Program:

<https://www.colorado.gov/hcpf>

Next Meeting: Remote attendance via Zoom

Wednesday, April 7, 2021

3:45 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
