



Florida Emergency Medical Services for Children Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

*Partnering with EDs, EMS agencies, disaster preparedness organizations, and families in the care of ill and injured children to enhance pediatric readiness across the continuum of care*

Seminole Hard Rock Hotel and Casino Terrace Ballroom C/D and Virtual  
 Thursday, June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025, from 1:30 to 3:25 pm Eastern Time

Attendees

Program Staff	Appointed Members	Liaisons	DOH BEMO
1. Amii Kennedy 2. Katelyn Dabhi 3. Phyllis Hendry	4. Barbara Tripp 5. Marshall Frank 6. Nicole Shimko 7. Tricia Swan	8. Billie Jo Burr 9. Jeremiah Rabish 10. John Wilgis 11. Julie Downey 12. Lisa Nichols 13. Rebecca Brownfield	14. Amy Lefstead 15. David Summers 16. Jane Bedford 17. Kimberly Moore 18. Lindsey McDole 19. Luis Dominquez 20. Melwin Rivera 21. Robert Mills 22. Sri Kiran Botta 23. Thomas Dibernardo 24. Ty Carhart
Other			
25. Alexandria Roeder 26. Alicia Schwan 27. Alison Stevens 28. Barbara Jones 29. Bari Conte 30. Brenda Clotfelter 31. Brendan Betancourt 32. Casey Allen 33. Chantel Blanchet Bergg 34. Chris Kammel 35. Cris Guevara 36. Dan Moran 37. David Lykens 38. Diana Prieto 39. Elizabeth Berhearse 40. Emily Myers 41. Evan Spence 42. Geoff Miller	45. Jason Morgan 46. Jodi Moman 47. Jose Martinez 48. Justin Fleischer 49. Justo Alvarez 50. Karen Macauley 51. Kelly Keys 52. Latrell Goodson 53. Laura Boghos 54. Lauren Sanguineti 55. Margaret Crawford 56. Mark Foss 57. Mark Wolcott 58. Matthew Allen 59. Megan Poff 60. Meghan Martin 61. Michael Rushing 62. Michael Vincent	65. Nick Carter 66. Nick Satterly 67. Nicole Wheeler 68. Olive Gaye 69. Pang Xiong 70. Prudhvi Alugubelli 71. Robert Kruger 72. Sandra Burnetter 73. Sara Hoffman 74. Sara Kirby 75. Sara Webb 76. Scott Kalseth 77. Sean Baker 78. Sean Gibson 79. Steven Lembright 80. Travis Witt 81. Walter Kuman 82. Wendy Stephan	

43. Glenn Davis	63. Miguel Gutierrez Delgado	+ Others not identified
44. Heidi McKaye	64. Nathan McManus	

Meeting Summary (see presentation slides and agenda [here](#)):

**Welcome**

- Asked attendees to complete the sign-in sheet to record attendance. Attendees joining virtually were asked to place their name and affiliation in the chat. If joining for the first time, attendees were asked to email [pedready@jax.ufl.edu](mailto:pedready@jax.ufl.edu) with their contact information.
- Shared the [agenda](#) for the meeting
- Highlighted the Florida EMSC mission: *“Partnering with Florida EDs, EMS agencies, disaster preparedness organizations, and families in the care of ill and injured children to enhance pediatric readiness across the continuum of care.”* Florida EMSC works with both hospital EDs and EMS.

**Florida Emergency Medical Services for Children Advisory Committee**

- Shared that there is no update on the status of the Florida EMS for Children Advisory Committee's newly appointed positions. Stay tuned for more information.
- Reviewed Florida EMSC Liaisons and Program Staff

**Bureau of Emergency Medical Oversight (BEMO) Updates**

- Provided an update on Florida Department of Health (FDOH) BEMO staff. Steve McCoy was promoted to the Director of Emergency Preparedness and Community Support. Michael Leffler is now the Bureau Chief. There are several other staff changes: Elizabeth Beshearse, Trauma Epidemiologist; Ambria Irlbeck, Regional EMS Coordinator; Priya Nagineni, EMS Business Analyst; Shawn Tatham, State EMS Operations Manager; Claire Guadiana, EMS Strategic Planning and Grants Manager; and Amy Lefstead and Megan Merrick, EMS Grants Coordinator. See the updated [FDOH Regional Coordinator Map](#) (May 2025). To sign up for communications for the EMS Grants team, visit [here](#).
- There is an upcoming EMS Innovations Conference in Tampa, Florida. A State EMS Leadership Pre-Conference Seminar will be held on 9/30/2025. The EMS Advisory Council and Committee Meetings will be held 10/1-10/3/2025. More information to come.
- The Cardiac Arrest Registry to Enhance Survival (CARES) 2024 Annual Report is now available. The CARES Registry only includes data for children and adults who come into the ED by EMS. A significant number of pediatric cardiac arrests come to the ED as walk-ins or by car. Encouraged hospital systems to report pediatric and adult data to CARES. Shared the [CARES Website](#) and a [Pediatric CARES data presentation](#) by Dr. Peter Antevy.
- The 2025 EMS Award Nomination Period remains open. See the [award categories and criteria](#) and the [nomination form](#). The submission deadline is 6/30/2025. For questions, email [EMS@FLhealth.gov](mailto:EMS@FLhealth.gov). In the past, there was a pediatric award. Encouraged the state to include a pediatric award in the future.
- Discussed that the state EMSAC Public Information, Education, and Relations (PIER) Committee has an active adult and pediatric hands-only CPR video competition. The competition is open to EMS and fire-rescue agencies, hospitals, and public safety educators in Florida. It is intended to raise public awareness about the life-saving importance of bystander pediatric and adult hands-only CPR. Submissions will be evaluated based on creativity, accuracy, and effectiveness in educating the public about hands-only CPR. The state EMSAC will vote on the final winners. The winners will be announced at the 2025 Fall EMS Awards Ceremony. Review the competition [rules](#) and see the [photo release form](#). The submission deadline is 8/1/2025.
- Reshared the state [EMS Advisory Council website](#). The website hosts information about the state EMSAC meetings, the council, committees, and EMS awards.

**Federal EMSC Program Funding**

- Discussed the future of the federal EMSC program funding. Encouraged meeting participants to reach out to congressional representatives in their county about the importance of federal EMSC funding.

**Old Business**

- Shared an update on the Florida children’s hospitals and contacts database. There is a need to continue to identify EMS liaisons and other contacts to add to the database. The goal is to form a Florida Children’s Hospitals work group with a focus on outreach and education.
- The Florida PEDReady<sup>ED</sup>: Enhancing Pediatric Readiness and Safety in Florida Emergency Departments rural grant proposal was approved. The two-year project will begin on 7/1/2025. The focus is on pediatric readiness in rural EDs and counties without an ED. Shared the project objectives: 1) Develop and implement a model voluntary pediatric readiness recognition program (PRRP) for rural EDs using a Communities of Practice educational model, rural quality collaborative, and implementation science; 2) Develop, test, and disseminate a brief screening tool for early identification of children needing rapid transfer to definitive care using a modified Delphi process; and 3) Develop a state dashboard of Florida EDs with burn, trauma, and pediatric capabilities, pediatric and neonatal-capable transporting systems, and other variables in an open-access geospatial platform.
- Shared an update on the Florida ED pediatric readiness legislation. Health Care Patient Protection ([HB 119](#) and [SB 1602](#)) passed all committees with 0 NAYS but was later moved into a rural health bill and postponed. The Electrocardiograms for Student Athletes ([SB 1070](#)) was passed. Shared the status of other pediatric-related legislation.
- Highlighted the 2025 FCEP [Life After Residency Conference](#). PGY-2 emergency medicine residents had the opportunity to connect, learn, and prepare for the next chapter of their lives outside the hospital setting. Florida EMSC, alongside the Pain Assessment and Management Initiative®(PAMI®), provided resources for attendees.
- Highlighted the NASEMSO Annual Meeting 2025. Florida EMSC submitted an abstract poster about the Florida Prehospital Pediatric Readiness Recognition Program (PRRP). Thanked Florida EMSC partners at the FDOH BEMO for their support of pediatric readiness and to all of those involved for making the project possible. Provided NASEMSO Pediatric Emergency Care (PEC) Council updates. The National Pediatric Readiness Project Steering Committee Partner Updates included the following: a survey was distributed to all Pediatric Emergency Medicine (PEM) fellowship directors to identify educational needs (American Academy of Pediatrics); there is an upcoming webinar series promoting National Pediatric Readiness Project (NPRP) participation for all trauma centers by 2026 (American College of Surgeons-Committee on Trauma); and there are Disaster Collaborative projects with a focus on pediatric surge, reunification, and mental health support (Pediatric Pandemic Network). The Safe Transport of Children Committee update included the following: Stage 1 of the safe transport device project was completed in the fall. The standards need to be tested and then taken to the international committee. The Michigan Autism Ready Certification Program focuses on education and skills training. Law enforcement and EMS are included. The program created a free online, evidence-based [train-the-trainer](#) program that empowers pediatric emergency care coordinators/champions (PECCs). The program was developed with input from many community organizations, including community mental health. Steps include appointing a PECC, training staff on autism spectrum disorder and Carter Kits, policies for initial and continuing education, and access to sensory kits. An update was provided on several policies, statements, and practice guidelines that were revised, including the following: *Preparing Your Family for Disasters*: remains available and was updated for families on [healthychildren.org](#) with a focus on hurricanes and floods; *Pediatric Readiness in Emergency Medicine Services* policy statement and technical report intent to revise was approved by the AAP Board; *Pediatric Readiness in the Emergency Department* policy statement and technical report were finalized and are awaiting AAP Board approval for publication; *Advocating for Life Support Training of Children, Parents, Caregivers, School Personnel, and the Public* policy statement and technical report intent to revise was approved, with publication anticipated in 2026; *Death of a Child in the ED* policy statement and technical report are under revision, with publication targeted for 2026; *Prehospital Trauma Compendium: Withholding and Discontinuation of Resuscitation in Pediatric Out of Hospital Traumatic Circulatory Arrest* (Ped TOHCA) new policy statement jointly AAP, ACEP, ACSCOT, and NAEMSP is drafted and out for review; *Pediatric Non-Traumatic Cardiac Arrest*:

*Optimizing In- and Out-of-Hospital Management*, new policy statement is in progress; and *Acute Pain Management for Children in Emergency Settings* policy statement revisions are being drafted.

- ACEP's Emergency Department Accreditation Program (EDAP) has four levels (I, II, III, Rural & Critical Access) with an online application, fee structure, site visit, and a three-year cycle. Common criteria include: a policy that specifies patients' weights are recorded in kilograms, hospital disaster plan that includes a plan for adult and pediatric patient surge to the ED, ED must review its pediatric readiness status at least every two years, including participation in the [National Pediatric Readiness Assessment](#), and document the review and develop action plans to address any identified deficiencies. Learn more about the [program](#) and [accreditation levels](#).
- Provided a recap from EMS Week 2025/EMS for Children Day, including pediatric-related events/activities throughout Florida, an [EMS World news story](#) featuring North Port Fire Rescue and the Florida Prehospital PRRP, and [Pediatric Care: Insights from EMS Week](#) (JEMS). Email ideas for EMS for Children Day 2026 to [pedready@jax.ufl.edu](mailto:pedready@jax.ufl.edu).

### **Prehospital Pediatric Readiness**

- Provided a Florida Prehospital PRRP update. The Florida Prehospital PRRP recognizes EMS and fire-rescue agencies that demonstrate a strong commitment to enhancing pediatric emergency care, education, and disaster preparedness. Shared the [informational handout](#) and [webpage](#). There will be a future resource repository on the webpage with best practices. Discussed the program criteria and steps to apply. Shared an update on the pilot phase. The pilot phase began on 1/6/2025. The pilot phase is closing soon. EMS agencies were encouraged to finish their application or hold off on applying until the full implementation of the program. As of 6/8/2025, four agencies were recognized, including North Port Fire Rescue, Walton County Fire Rescue, Martin County Fire Rescue, and Sarasota County Fire Department. As of 6/8/2025, two agencies were preparing for their verification visit, two applications were under review, and 13 other agencies were in different phases of the application process. Discussed the impact of spreading the word about the achievement on community engagement. Shared successes and challenges. Discussed the next steps of the program. Florida EMSC is offering pre-application meetings to answer questions and provide guidance. As part of ongoing efforts to improve the program and simplify the application process, the application will be closed beginning July 2025. Announcements will be made when the application reopens.
- Discussed the National Prehospital Pediatric Readiness Project (PPRP) for EMS agencies. The first National Prehospital Pediatric Readiness Project Assessment was conducted in 2024. The assessment was led by the National EMSC Program and more than 30 national organizations and stakeholders. It will be available to take in the future for agencies wishing to evaluate their readiness and for quality improvement purposes. In the meantime, a copy of the assessment ([English version](#) or [Spanish version](#)) can be printed and reviewed with your agency administrator and/or PECC. An update on the release of state-level data was provided. HRSA approved ALS-level data and is actively reviewing BLS-level data. Approval is expected soon. *The National Pediatric Prehospital Readiness Project: First Comprehensive Assessment of United States Emergency Medical Services Agencies* was submitted to the Annals of Emergency Medicine. A separate manuscript focusing on the PRRP Toolkit is also in development/submission. The next assessment is expected in 2029. EMS agencies are encouraged to review the PRRP [Checklist](#) and [Toolkit](#).
- Discussed the definition of a prehospital PECC. Shared the [Prehospital PECC Flyer](#). Challenge coins and lapel pins are available for PECCs (see [flyer](#)). A PECC mentorship program and case scenario reviews are coming soon.
- Shared the [New EMS Obstetric Emergency Guidelines](#) (NAEMSP, ACOG). NAEMSP released three new EMS model guidelines, developed in collaboration with ACOG and shaped by feedback from EMS physicians, paramedics, EMTs, EMRs, and ob-gyns. The guidelines are designed to support the care of obstetric emergencies in the prehospital setting and include the following: [Postpartum Hemorrhage](#), [Elevated Blood Pressure in Pregnancy and Postpartum](#), and [Eclampsia](#). The [Identifying and Managing](#)

[Obstetric Emergencies in Nonobstetric Settings](#) (ACOG) seeks to enhance the identification and management of pregnancy-related emergencies in non-obstetric settings.

### **Emergency Department Pediatric Readiness**

- Discussed the National Pediatric Readiness Project (NPRP) Assessment, which is intended to evaluate the overall pediatric readiness in EDs. The assessment can be taken at any time for quality improvement purposes. The next assessment is expected in March 2026. An updated national policy statement is in progress. [Learn more](#) about the NPRP. Shared the NPRP [Checklist](#) and [Toolkit](#).
- Discussed the definition of an ED PECC. Shared the [ED PECC Flyer](#). Challenge coins and lapel pins are available for PECCs (see [flyer](#)). Module 4 was released in the [ED PECC Learning Modules Series](#). More modules are coming soon.

### **Disaster**

- Discussed that Julie Downey, Florida EMS for Children Advisory Committee Disaster Liaison and Disaster Response Committee Chair, is developing an example model MCI plan. The plan will include active shooter and hostile event planning. The terminology will be consistent with NFPA 3000. It will include considerations for immediate reunification and pediatrics, including children with special healthcare needs.
- Shared upcoming offerings for the pediatric disaster course: MGT439 Pediatric Disaster Response and Emergency Preparedness (register [here](#)). The course prepares students to effectively, appropriately, and safely plan for and respond to a disaster incident involving children. Pediatric-specific planning considerations include mass sheltering, pediatric triage, reunification planning, and pediatric decontamination considerations. It serves a management resource course for stakeholders like pediatric physicians, emergency managers, emergency planners, and members of EMS, Fire, Police, etc. Shared that Nicholas H. Carter, MD, with the Florida G7 Network, was in attendance at the Florida EMS for Children Advisory Committee meeting.
- A [Pediatric Disaster Preparedness Self-Assessment for Children's Hospitals](#) (PDPACH; PPN) is a key initiative to measure pediatric hospitals' readiness for emergencies, disasters, and pandemics. To receive the assessment via email and include your institution in this work, register [here](#). For more information, contact Anna Bowie at [PDPACH@pedspandemicnetwork.org](mailto:PDPACH@pedspandemicnetwork.org).
- Shared several resources for Hurricane Season, including [Hurricane Resources at Your Fingertips](#) (ASPR TRACIE); [Be Hurricane Ready Course](#), [Hurricane Response – Resources for Children with Special Health Care Needs](#), [Hurricanes: Helping Your Family Be Prepared](#), and [more](#) (PPN); and [Statewide Post-Storm Resources](#). Shared the Ready Wrigley Prepares for Hurricanes Educational Activity Book. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) created *Ready Wrigley* to provide parents, guardians, teachers, and young children with tips, activities, and a story to help the whole family prepare for emergencies. To request hard copies, email [pedready@jax.ufl.edu](mailto:pedready@jax.ufl.edu).
- Additional disaster resources available include [A Suite of Rocket Rule Resources](#) (The Hero In You Foundation), [Disaster Response Collaborative](#) (PPN), [Disasters in Seconds](#) (Pedi-Ed-Trics™), and [Ready. Prep. Go! Podcast](#) (PPN). Ready. Prep. Go! Podcast is now offering continuing education.

### **National EMSC Program Information (EDC, EIIC, State Partnership Programs, PECARN, PPN, and Targeted Issues Grants)**

- Shared that there are now [PPN Visual Communication cards](#). The cards are used to help bridge communication gaps, especially with children who are non-verbal or speak a different language. They are designed to engage and comfort patients through colorful, child-friendly visuals; enable fast and effective communication across language barriers; and support interaction with children who have limited or no verbal skills. The cards were created by the PPN and adapted from Florida, Minnesota, and Kansas EMSC. [Request a set\(s\)](#) or [download the PDF version](#). Florida EMSC requested a large order to distribute sets within Florida.
- A National EMSC Central Resource Library is being developed. Discussed other National EMSC resources available, including the [EMSC Pulse Newsletter](#) and [Pediatric Education and Advocacy](#)

[\(PEAK\) Kits](#). There is a new PEAK on [Sepsis](#). There are [other resources](#), such as toolkits, learning modules, and webinars.

### **New Literature, Podcasts, and Other Resources**

- Shared the following new literature: [Changes in Pediatric Inpatient Capabilities and Emergency Department Pediatric Readiness](#) (May 2025), [Youth Suicide Prevention in the Emergency Department: Lethal Means Counseling 101](#) (April 2025), [The Current State of Pediatric Emergency Care Coordinators- A Role Essential for High Quality Pediatric Care](#) (April 2025), [Pediatric Mental Health Boarding in US Emergency Departments, 2018-2022](#) (April 2025), [Nurse Pediatric Competency, Certification, and Continuing Education: Impact on EDs' Pediatric Readiness](#) (April 2025), [The Association of Emergency Department Weighted Pediatric Readiness Score with Pediatric Inpatient Capabilities](#) (March 2025), [Abusive Head Trauma in Infants and Children: Technical Report](#) (February 2025), [Performance of Individual Criteria of the Pediatric Emergency Care Applied Research Network \(PECARN\) Intraabdominal Injury Prediction Rule](#) (January 2025), [Mapping Prehospital Clinician Impression to Hospital-Based Diagnoses in Children Transported to the Hospital by Emergency Medical Services](#) (July 2024), [Measures of Patient Acuity Among Children Encountered by Emergency Medical Services by the Child Opportunity Index](#) (April 2024) (Dr. Fishe co-author), and [Emergency Department Arrival Modes: Time for Mandatory Pediatric Readiness](#) (April 2024).
- Shared the following new podcasts: [Mass Casualty 101: Real-Life ER Disaster Planning with Dr. Matt Harris](#) (Doctors Are People Too) and [Pediatric Readiness – Tackling Training, the C-suite, and Everything in Between](#) (Peds-Centered).
- Discussed resources on Measles: [Measles FAQ for Families and Caregivers](#), [Recognizing Measles in Your Patients](#), and [other Measles Resources](#) (PPN); and [Measles Prevention and Preparedness Tips for Camps](#) and [No Outbreaks Here! Simple Strategies for Reducing the Spread of Communicable Disease at Camp](#) (American Camp Association®).
- There is a [Pediatric Course](#) provided by Florida Center for EMS.
- Shared the [Pediatric First Aid and Safety Training for Teachers and Caregivers](#) (AAP) and Pediatric Emergency Medicine Guides Version 12.0 (2025). APPLE USERS: Use the IBOOK Version [link](#), select “VIEW IN IBOOKS” and then “GET” to download the book to your iPhone, iPad, or Mac. NON-APPLE USERS: PDF AND EPUB Version [link](#). The EPUB version retains internal links and external links. The PDF version only retains the external links.

### **Florida EMSC State Partnership Program Information**

- Reviewed the National EMSC performance measures
- Shared that the HRSA Florida EMSC Site Visit was rescheduled to 2/24-2/26/2026. More information to come.
- Shared the Florida EMSC [one-page overview](#), [resources flyer](#), [modified JumpSTART and START badge buddies](#), [pediatric emergency ABCs and more](#), and [pediatric pain and fever dosing guide](#). Fidget spinners are now available upon request. Fidget spinners can serve as a tool to calm and distract children and/or adults with sensory processing needs. They can be helpful to use during medical procedures or transport. Email [pedready@jax.ufl.edu](mailto:pedready@jax.ufl.edu) for more information.
- Shared the Florida EMSC [Website](#), Facebook ([@floridaemsforchildren](#)), Instagram ([@flemsforchildren](#)), and the PE<sup>2</sup>ARL Quarterly E-newsletter. The [Spring Issue 2025](#) was released, and the summer issue is coming soon. Submit topics and other pediatric-related highlights to feature in the next issue to [pedready@jax.ufl.edu](mailto:pedready@jax.ufl.edu). Visit [here](#) to sign up to receive future issues and other Florida EMSC updates.
- Shared that the 2025 Virtual Florida EMSC Calendar is available. The calendar highlights upcoming pediatric emergency care-related events, meetings, and observances. Selected photos are featured that correspond with each month’s theme. The calendar will be updated as needed, and the latest version will be available to download on the Florida EMSC website [here](#).
- [Past presentations](#) are readily available on the Florida EMSC website

### **Upcoming Events**

- Shared upcoming events, including: [Dr. Michael Frogel Memorial Pediatric Disaster Preparedness Conference](#), [Measles: Connecting the Dots Virtual Education Series](#), and [FCEP Symposium by the Sea 2025](#). Symposium by the Sea will be on 7/31-8/3/2025 at Fort Lauderdale Marriott Harbor Beach Resort & Spa in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. The theme is neonatal emergencies. A pediatric ED workshop will be held on 8/1/2025. The Florida Pediatric EMS Symposium will be held on 7/31/2025. Florida EMSC is sponsoring rural scholarships for select agencies. Email [pedready@jax.ufl.edu](mailto:pedready@jax.ufl.edu) for more information. The [National Healthcare Coalition Preparedness Conference](#) is on 12/1-12/3/2025 in Grapevine, Texas; the [Florida Fire and EMS Conference](#) is on 1/5-1/9/2026 at Orange County Convention Center in Orlando, Florida; and the [National Association of EMS Physicians 2026 Annual Meeting](#) will be on 1/26-1/31/2025 at the JW Marriott Tampa Water Street in Tampa, Florida.

### **New Business**

- Shared that there are 2025 Broselow Tape errors. A statement was released by Armstrong Medical on 5/20/2025. Update from 07/09/2025 – The FDA has made a recall of the Broselow Tapes: [Broselow Pediatric Emergency Rainbow Tape Recall: AirLife Removes Certain Broselow Pediatric Emergency Rainbow Tapes due to Misprinted Information](#).
- Discussed a new collaboration opportunity between the Florida Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Coalition and Florida EMSC. Julie Downey volunteered to serve as the liaison.
- Sensory assistance bags were developed in collaboration between the Southwest Florida Healthcare Coalition, Golisano Children’s Hospital, SEA STAR Program, and EMS providers. This is part of the Pediatric Emergency Preparedness Initiative (P.E.P.I.). The bags are intended to make it easier for children to adapt to an emergency event and include noise-cancelling headphones, sunglasses, sketch boards, fidget spinners, chew rings, tactile pads, and kaleidoscope wands. The bags will be provided to every ambulance in Region 6.

### **Liaison and Constituency Group Reports**

- **Community Paramedicine/Mobile Integrated Health/Health-Access-Resiliency and Telehealth: Bedford, Work**
  - Bedford: There is a [Mobile Integrated Health \(MIH\) Programs Map](#) that includes contact information for each program. If there are any contact changes, contact Jane Bedford at [jane.bedford@flhealth.gov](mailto:jane.bedford@flhealth.gov).
- **Florida Neonatal Pediatric Transport Network Association and STARS Program: Shimko**
  - A national disaster call was held. Trying to get transport teams together to discuss lessons learned. The Safety Summit, *Mini Might: Pediatric and Neonatal Insights*, will be held on 8/27/2025 in Clermont, Florida.
  - A STARS update was provided. Over 430 patients have been impacted. Averaging about 20 dispatches per month in each county. There is now a STARS simulation doll that is being used for continuing education with crews.
- **Florida Trauma Program Managers: Nichols**
  - ACS Verified Trauma Centers in Florida, in working with DOH, are working on a different process for those institutions that can be designated through the state since they have gone through their ACS verification. Wolfson’s Children’s just went through this for the first time. Gene Buerkle is the Trauma Section Administrator. The Department established an Internal Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) regarding Trauma Standard Equivalency. The purpose of the SOP is to support existing trauma centers seeking to amend or renew their current designations (Existing Trauma Centers). Existing trauma centers may, in lieu of completing a full site survey, submit certain documents to show that trauma center operations are consistent with Trauma Center Standards, DOH Pamphlet 150-9, January 2010 (Standards) and with national standards, including those established by the American College of Surgeons (ACS) entitled Resources of Optimal Care of the Injured Patient (2022 Standards). The Department will accept the following as evidence of substantial compliance with certain portions of the Standards when submitted to the Department in accordance with trauma

center renewal time frames: Existing Trauma Centers that submit a valid ACS Verification Final Report and Certificate and TQIP Report together with their renewal applications will be deemed "Acceptable" in all sections of the Standards except Standard VIII (Training and Continuing Education Programs) and Standard XX (Disaster Planning and Management), which will be evaluated during the Electronic Pre-Survey Questionnaire (EPSQ) process. The survey team includes a trauma surgeon, emergency physician, neurosurgeon, and trauma nurse/consultant.

- The State Trauma Registry was revamped. Looking at opportunities where the data points can be increased. There is a Trauma PI Subcommittee.
- The Florida Senate Bill 2500 regarding reimbursement rates for trauma centers was going to the Senate again
- Working on getting people appointed to the Florida Trauma Standards Advisory Council. This is needed to take the trauma standards to the state to review.
- **Florida Emergency Nurses Association (FENA): Blake**
  - Monthly meetings were held with stakeholders in Florida. 28 people joined the Pediatric Readiness Committee, either as FENA members or those who are in the emergency setting and want to assist with the initiative. Most are willing to participate as liaisons and committee members for outreach to regions in Florida. Florida was divided into regions that correlate with the Florida Health Care Coalitions map, and committee members are being assigned to those regions. Several members have already started recruiting local FENA chapters to assist with contacting all facilities within their regions, as well as contacting facilities themselves. Presentations are being given at chapter ENA meetings on joining the coalition. Members are helping to identify PECCs for Florida hospitals. Members of the committee were asked to bring their recommendations on the most beneficial way to use the budgeted money. One suggestion was to explore some type of foundation-based initiative for pediatric readiness. Two members have experience in this area and will explore and report back.
  - Upcoming meetings include the following: the quarterly Florida ENA meeting will be in Jupiter at Jupiter Medical Center on 7/11/2025; Palm Beach County ENA is holding their "Emergency Topics in the Tropics" conference on 7/12/2025 at Bethesda Hospital West in Boynton Beach, Florida; the National ENA Conference will be held 9/17-20/2025 in New Orleans; and the quarterly state council meetings for 2025 will be 7/11/2025 in Jupiter and 10/17/2025 in Central Florida (TBA).
  - The Treasure Coast reactivated its local ENA chapter and is actively recruiting members
  - Shared several pediatric readiness-related outreach activities and social media initiatives. FENA has a Facebook group (FENA ED Pediatric Readiness Resource) and is in the process of creating an Instagram page. A FENA WhatsApp group is active for rapid communication with members.
  - FENA has scholarships for first responders seeking nursing degrees. The scholarship is for any first responder admitted to a school of nursing and/or currently enrolled in a school of nursing to pursue a higher level of education in the emergency setting. Eligible first responders include certified EMTs, paramedics, firefighters, and law enforcement officers who have a student membership of ENA and/or affiliate ENA membership and are in at least the second semester of core nursing courses/classes from the application date. There are two awards annually. \$500 is awarded to each applicant. The deadline for submission is September 30<sup>th</sup> of the current year. The application is available [here](#) under "resources." There have been no applications yet.
  - FENA members were active in contacting Florida legislators in their districts, asking them to support the bills that pertained to pediatric readiness requirements for Florida EDs. Phone calls, emails, and in-person visits were made, and information was shared on how the bill

would positively impact Florida's pediatric population. Although the bill did not make it to the floor for the final vote, all signs indicated there was wide support for it.

- **Disaster Preparedness:** Downey
  - Terry Schenk, with the DOH Bureau of Preparedness and Response, went over the Statewide Florida Infectious Disease Transportation Network (FIDTN) at the June 2025 Disaster Committee meeting. FIDTN came out of Ebola. Several exercises were held. A meeting was held with DOH to promote awareness of this program across the state. Schenk did an exercise for 15 to 50 (15 minutes till the hospital receives 50 patients) in Pensacola. The next one will be held in Tallahassee. Went over the 2025 World Cup. There will be 32 teams. 14 matches will be held in Orange County. The games will also be held in Miami-Dade County and surrounding counties. An inventory of chem packs, etc., is being completed. Teams are coming from all over the world, so there will be language barriers.
  - An update was provided on the FFCA Statewide Emergency Response Plan (SERP) Emergency Response Committee (ERC) by Vice-Chair Chief Marcos De La Rosa at the June 2025 Disaster Committee Meeting. Ensured everyone had access to Pulsara. A presentation will be held at the next Disaster Committee Meeting.
  - The Ambulance Deployment Plan is being updated. It will be for non-governmental agencies. The government agencies will be covered by ESF49.
- **Children's Medical Services, Child Death, Child Abuse:** Radigan
  - The Child Abuse Death Review Unit is accepting Sleep Baby Safely – Welcome Baby Bag orders. To place an order, visit [here](#). Orders have a 30-day turnaround time to be delivered. The bags are available for the following participating counties: Bay, Broward, Miami-Dade, Duval, Escambia, Hillsborough, Jackson, Leon, Marion, Orange, Osceola, Palm Beach, Pinellas, Polk, Sarasota, Wakulla.
  - Funding for the National Back to Sleep Program was cut
- **Mental Health:** Work
  - Working on mental health and substance use disorder prevention initiative for youth that will launch in late Summer in Palm Beach County. Will be sharing the handout tool developed that can be used by anyone who is interested. More information to come in July.
- **Rural:** Vause, Bedford, Redd
  - Vause: Emerald Coast Healthcare Coalition and Walton County Fire Rescue are planning to hold an active shooter event at the Paxton School in Walton County. It is a very rural area. Challenges have been identified, including the time to get to school. Expecting to have injured and dead simulated patients. It will involve agencies throughout the Panhandle, and so it will be a regional exercise. The exercise will be a pediatric event – will include pre-k through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. The exercise will be held when school is in session, so there will be live actors with children in the school. A complete reunification effort will be included. Anyone is invited to observe the exercise. There are concerns surrounding the federal budget and its impact on healthcare coalition funding. Funding is guaranteed through June 2026.
- **Family Advisory Network:** Nasca, Brownfield, Burr, McNeil
  - Thanked Billie Jo Burr for writing letters to congressional representatives in Duval County advocating for EMSC funding. Thanked the FANs for their support. June 12<sup>th</sup> is Button Battery Awareness Day. This will be added as an initiative on the Florida EMSC Annual Calendar (action item).
- **Data Committee and Biospatial**
  - The Data Committee would like to know if EMS agencies are using their Health Information Exchange to find patient outcomes
- **EMS Educators** – no update
- **Pediatric Emergency Care Coordinators/Champions:** Weishaupt, Rabish – no update
- **Injury Prevention** – no update

- **Florida Committee on Trauma**
  - The pediatric subcommittee will be putting resources on its website regarding pediatrics. Will be sharing Florida EMSC resources to include on the website (action item).
- **Florida Hospital Association:** Wilgis, Pelligrino – no update
- **Other** – no updates

### **Questions and Open Discussion**

- The next Florida EMS for Children Advisory Committee meeting will be held in conjunction with the State EMS Advisory Council meetings from 10/1-10/3/2025, in Tampa, Florida. More information to come. Email [pedready@jax.ufl.edu](mailto:pedready@jax.ufl.edu) with ideas for future meeting topics. To stay up to date with Florida EMS for Children Advisory Committee meeting information, visit [here](#).
- There is uncertainty about the future of funding for travel for appointed members and liaisons on the Florida EMS for Children Advisory Committee. Stay tuned for more information.

### **Contact Information**

- Project and Medical Director: Dr. Phyllis Hendry
  - Email: [Phyllis.hendry@jax.ufl.edu](mailto:Phyllis.hendry@jax.ufl.edu)
  - Phone: 904-244-4986
- Program Manager: Katelyn Dabhi, MS, CHES®
  - Email: [Katelyn.dabhi@jax.ufl.edu](mailto:Katelyn.dabhi@jax.ufl.edu)
  - Phone: 904-244-8617
- Program:
  - Email: [pedready@jax.ufl.edu](mailto:pedready@jax.ufl.edu)
  - Phone: 904-244-4986
  - Website: [flemsc.emergency.med.jax.ufl.edu](http://flemsc.emergency.med.jax.ufl.edu)
  - Facebook: [@floridaemsforchildren](https://www.facebook.com/floridaemsforchildren)
  - Instagram: [@flemsforchildren](https://www.instagram.com/flemsforchildren)

