



Champion E-Correspondence

July 2012

This is an e-mail communication related to the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) "Medical Home Chapter Champions Program on Asthma." It is designed to provide AAP Medical Home Chapter Champions with resources, as well as current clinical and other information. The Champion E-Correspondence is sent on a monthly basis. Feel free to share the Champion E-Correspondence with colleagues. Distribution information appears at the end of this newsletter.



Project Updates

- **Regional Conference Calls:** All summer 2012 MHCCPA Regional Conference Calls have now been scheduled and they will occur throughout August. Please double check your calendars to be sure you have the date and time of your region's call on same!
 - **Districts I & II** (CT, MA, NH, RI, MS, VT, NY, USE) – Monday, August 13 at 7pm Eastern/6pm Central
 - **Districts III & IV** (DE, DC, MD, NJ, PA, WV, KY, NC, SC, TN, VA) – Wednesday, August 22 at 4pm Eastern/3pm Central
 - **Districts V & VI** (IN, OH, IL, IA, KS, MN, MO, NE, SD, WI) – Tuesday, August 14 at 1pm Eastern/12pm Central
 - **Districts VII & X** (AR, LA, MS, TX, AL, FL, GA, PR) – Monday, August 13 at 1pm Eastern/12pm Central
 - **District VIII** (AZ, CO, HI, ID, WA, NV, NM, OR, UT, WA, WY, USW): Monday, August 6 at 12pm Mountain/11am Pacific/9am Hawaiian-Aleutian
 - **District IX** (CA) – Monday, August 20 at 6pm Mountain/5pm Pacific

The purpose of these calls is to foster regional relationships and information sharing among the champions and their respective chapters, and in doing so, support quality improvement in chronic care management of asthma within a medical home system. On this call, Chapter Champions will be provided with an overview of the priorities in the new phase of the program and will be offered assistance and direction with their asthma work plans. (Note: Chelsea will be sending all Chapter Champions his/her previously completed work plan the week prior to each region's call.)

We want to hear from you on these calls! What successes and challenges have you experienced in the implementation of your work plan or with other asthma or medical home-related activities? What have you enjoyed about your role as Chapter Champion? What frustrations have you experienced? Please offer us your feedback so we can continue to grow and improve!

- **Ghostwritten Article:** Program staff is working with Project Advisory Committee members and other partners on a ghostwritten article to be shared with your chapters. This article will provide tips on partnering with schools for children with asthma in your medical home. Please be on the lookout for the arrival of that article in your email inbox in the near future!
- **PAC Conference Call:** The MHCCPA Project Advisory Committee (PAC) met via conference call on July 19. The PAC had a fruitful discussion regarding the activities and priorities for the upcoming phase of the program. The MHCCPA will be focusing on education and training in cultural competency as a means of reducing health disparities. Please remember that PAC members are available to support you in your role as a Chapter Champion. Feel free to reach out to them (or program staff) for resources, advice, or technical assistance. The [PAC roster](#) can be found [here](#). Please notify Chelsea if you are in need of additional contact information.

Upcoming Events

- ◆ [Webinar: Community Collaboration—Establishing Partnerships in Challenging Times](#)
August 1
1:00pm Central
- ◆ [Webinar: Creating a Patient and Family Advisory Council—Getting Started](#)
August 14
12:00pm Central
- ◆ [National Academy for State Health Policy \(NASHP\) 25th Annual Conference](#)
October 15-17
Baltimore, MD
- ◆ [AAP National Conference & Exhibition](#)
October 20-23
New Orleans, LA
- ◆ [Patient-Centered Primary Care Collaborative Fall Conference](#)
October 25
Chicago, IL



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Chapter Champion Spotlight

Chapter Champion Spotlight on Louisiana Champion: Megan Gardner, MD, FAAP

Megan Gardner, MD, FAAP has been hard at work in Louisiana! When she's not at [Ark-La-Tex Children's Clinic](#) in Bossier City, she can be found meeting with school administrators and nurses to address the needs and requirements of proper asthma care for children while at school. She has proactively reached out to multiple school districts and coordinated meetings with local stakeholders, including parents who were willing to be interviewed about their child's asthma and how it affects their family life. As we all know, it is evident that too many children are not prepared for asthma events while at school. Most schools she has visited do not have staff on-site who are trained to provide Advanced Life Support. Dr Gardner is currently in discussions with the local Red Cross regarding a possible training for school nurses and other staff.

In addition, Dr Gardner has been in contact with the Bossier City Parish to gather data on the number of times Emergency Medical Services or Fire Departments are called to local schools due to an asthma emergency. She has formed excellent partnerships in the community, and has been invited to speak on radio and television programs to educate the public about the prevalence of asthma and how parents, teachers, health care providers, and others in the community can be prepared to serve as a support system for children with asthma.

Recently, Dr Gardner helped to re-institute the [Northwest Louisiana Pediatric Society](#) (NWLAPS) within the AAP [Louisiana Chapter](#). NWLAPS was founded in 1980, but had been inactive for years. Dr Gardner and a few other pediatricians in northwest Louisiana have successfully grown the membership of the Society from 0 to over 50! She currently serves as the NWLAPS Secretary and Treasurer. Dr Gardner is also a member of the national AAP Section on Young Physicians.

Dr Gardner was born and raised in Shreveport. She attended Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, and then returned home to attend Louisiana State University School of Medicine in Shreveport. She completed her Pediatric Internship and Residency at Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center in Shreveport and joined Ark-La-Tex Children's Clinic in July 2010. Dr. Gardner's hobbies include spending time with family and friends, as well as her dachshunds and cat (Andouille Sausage, Beignet and Boudin). She enjoys gardening, reading, and cheering for the LSU Tigers and the New Orleans Saints!

Dr Gardner, thank you for your dedication to the Medical Home Chapter Champions Program on Asthma and to improving the lives of children with asthma!

Resources

Training Videos for Schools Provided by California Breathing: The [School Environmental Health and Asthma Collaborative](#) (SEHAC), a collaboration of [California Breathing](#), was founded with a mission of increasing awareness of the importance of addressing asthma issues within the K-12 school community. SEHAC has developed short [training videos](#) (3- to 5-minutes) designed specifically for schools that provide basic, yet useful information. SEHAC also offers downloadable resources, such as a [poster covering what to do in an asthma emergency](#) and a [medication authorization form for school](#).

Navigating MedicalHomeInfo.org to Find the Resources and Tools You Need: The [National Center for Medical Home Implementation Web site](#) is the clearinghouse for information and tools regarding the medical home approach to care in the pediatric setting. To help you understand all there is to find on the Web site, the National Center has developed a brief [video tutorial](#) that describes the six sections of the Web site, as well as the practical resources available for primary care providers and families. MHCCPA and National Center staff are always available to help you find what you need to ensure that every child and youth has a medical home.

Pediatric Asthma Evaluation and Management: Have you been dedicating all your efforts as a Chapter Champion to improving children's access to medical homes? Do you need a quick refresher on pediatric asthma? Do you have primary care colleagues who might be interested in reviewing the basics on asthma? If so, check out this [archived webinar](#) and [PowerPoint presentation](#) presented by Bradley Chipps, MD, FAAP at the Capital Allergy & Respiratory Disease Center in Sacramento, CA and hosted by the Academy's [Pediatric Care Online](#).



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Reports

After-Hours Care and Its Coordination with Primary Care in the U.S.

[The Commonwealth Fund](#), in collaboration with The Center for Studying Health System Change, recently released a Summary Report on its analysis of primary care practices that provide after-hours care to patients. After-hours services may include telephone access (such as nurse triage phone lines) or expanded clinic hours. Studies show that improved patient outcomes and lower emergency department use are associated with this continuity of care. The report states, "Overall, primary care offices that successfully provide after-hours care achieve physician buy-in, have effective communication bolstered by EHRs, make appropriate staffing adjustments, and make an overall commitment to improving access and continuity in patient-provider relationships." The [Summary Report](#) is available [here](#).

Health Literate Health Care Organizations

The [Institute of Medicine](#) released the [Ten Attributes of Health Literate Health Care Organizations](#) in June. Health literate organizations make it easier for people to navigate, understand, and use information and services to take care of their health. Examples of the attributes identified are as follows:

- Includes populations served in the design, implementation, and evaluation of health information and services
- Meets the needs of populations with a range of health literacy skills
- Provides easy access to health information
- Addresses health literacy in high-risk situations, such as health care transitions
- Communicates clearly what health plans do and do not cover

Dispelling Myths about Emergency Department Use

A Research Brief produced by The [Center for Studying Health System Change](#) is uncovering common misconceptions of health care providers and policy makers regarding emergency department (ED) use. Contrary to popular belief, results of the national study suggest that the majority of emergency department use among Medicaid patients is for urgent and more serious symptoms, as opposed to routine care; people with private insurance, rather than Medicaid patients, account for the most ED use; and ED crowding is most often caused by emergency patients admitted to the hospital waiting for an inpatient bed. The [Research Brief](#) is available [here](#).

In the News...

- [Allowing Physicians to Customize Care Coordination in Their Practices is a Critical Factor in Raising Quality of Care and Lowering Spending](#)
- [Medical Schools Prepare for Their Role in the Patient-Centered Medical Home](#)
- [Consumers Benefit from Improved Care Coordination and Greater Emphasis on Preventive Care](#)
- [Lower-risk Youths with Asthma May Not Need Daily Inhaled Corticosteroids](#)
- [Vitamin D Deficiency May Worsen Lung Function in Children with Asthma](#)
- [Mobile Asthma Management Tools: Technology to Improve Care and Lower Costs](#)

The AAP [Medical Home Chapter Champions Program on Asthma](#) staff provides this e-mail update to the Academy's Medical Home Chapter Champions, other interested AAP members, and staff. For additional information on medical home, visit the [National Center for Medical Home Implementation Web site](#). All comments and inquiries can be sent to Chelsea Rajagopalan at crajaopalan@aap.org or 800/433-9016, ext 4311. If you would like to unsubscribe to the Champions E-Correspondence, contact Chelsea Rajagopalan.