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Are You Ready? Steps to Improve Disaster Preparedness

Scott Needle, MD, FAAP

SOYP Member July 1, 2007 - June 30, 2009

Disasters can affect anyone, anytime. If a disaster happened today, would you be prepared?

A survey was circulated to AAP members to learn about steps taken or tools used to improve office preparedness. Only 48% of the 165 respondents stated the office had a written disaster plan.¹ Barriers to plan development included lack of time, lack of resources, other priorities, and organizational issues that prevented them from working on preparedness. It's important to integrate preparedness planning into office protocols early on in your career, so this becomes routine. And, as the experts say, "Failure to plan is planning to fail!"

As pediatricians, we know we need to care for patients, even when business operations are disrupted. A written plan helps to reduce risks, maintain practice operations, and ensure a medical home for children. The goal is to prepare, update, and practice a plan that is coordinated with hospital and community plans. It's also crucial to develop a plan for your own home and family. Simple steps such as compiling a family disaster kit, discussing evacuation and communication plans with your family, and reviewing your home/property insurance coverage will give you greater peace of mind. Once your personal situation is squared away, you will be better able to focus on your practice. So how do you get started? You just jump in – the water is fine!

The Preparedness Checklist for Pediatric Practices www.aap.org/disasters/checklist is based on the Pediatric Preparedness Resource Kit www.aap.org/disasters/resourcekit and allows for advance planning that can mitigate risk, ensure financial stability, strengthen the medical home, and promote child health. The checklist offers strategies on keeping vaccines safe and promoting professional self-care. The AAP offers a template plan that you can work on over time, see <http://www.aap.org/en-us/advocacy-and-policy/aap-health-initiatives/Children-and-Disasters/Pages/Pediatric-Practice.aspx>.

Plan ahead for September, National Preparedness Month. Visit the AAP Children and Disasters Web site www.aap.org/disasters or e-mail DisasterReady@aap.org to receive e-newsletters or request free print copies of the checklist.

Reference:

1. Author's unpublished data
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Do You Know Who Your Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Chapter Champion Is?

Michelle Esquivele, MPH, AAP Staff

In 2001 the American Academy of Pediatrics initiated a program entitled "Improving the Effectiveness of Newborn Hearing Screening, Diagnosis and Intervention through the Medical Home." This program is focused on increasing the involvement of primary care pediatricians and other child health care providers by linking follow-up services more closely to the newborn's medical home. As part of this Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) program, the Academy has identified one pediatrician in each chapter to "champion this cause." Interested in learning more about EHDI and linking to your chapter champion? Click [here](#) to access the list of chapter champions.

New Policy Statement on Care Coordination & Free Access to an Online Curriculum

Michelle Esquivele, MPH, AAP Staff

Care coordination is an essential element of a transformed American health care delivery system that emphasizes optimal quality and cost outcomes, addresses family-centered care, and calls for partnership across various settings and communities.

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cont. New Policy Statement on Care Coordination & Free Access to an Online Curriculum

The policy statement, [Patient- and Family-Centered Care Coordination: A Framework for Integrating Care for Children and Youth Across Multiple Systems](#), appeared in the May issue of [Pediatrics](#). This policy, co-authored by the [Council on Children with Disabilities \(COCWD\)](#) and the [Medical Home Implementation Project Advisory Committee](#), outlines the essential partnerships that are critical to lower health care costs, less fragmented care, and an improved experience for children and families. The policy provides practical guidance for care coordination integration in practices and communities and is intended to be broadly focused, realizing that every community has different needs, assets, and service gaps based on location, population, and cultural factors. An accompanying article in AAP News, [Beyond the Medical Home: Coordinating Care for Children](#), also highlights the importance of this policy.

To further facilitate the application of these recommendations, the online [Pediatric Care Coordination Curriculum](#) provides content which can be adapted to the needs of any entity (eg, a single practice, a network of practices, parent and family organizations, or a state-wide organization such as [Title V MCH programs](#)). By design, the majority of the content is universally relevant, but optimal use of the curriculum results when it is adapted and customized to reflect local needs, assets, and cultures. Access to this online resource is free and available through the [Boston Children's Hospital](#) website.

More information on care coordination is available through the [National Center for Medical Home Implementation](#) website and visit the [COCWD](#) website for additional policies and membership opportunities.

Free Educational Toolkits for Global Immunizations

Kiran Patel, AAP Staff

The AAP, a founding partner of the UN Foundation Shot@Life campaign, is offering free educational toolkits for members interested in raising awareness about vaccine-preventable diseases and their effects globally through the Shot@Life campaign by educating families in pediatric clinicians' practices. Resources include promotional Shot@Life materials for the office (posters, pens and t-shirts) and educational tools such as info cards for parents/patients and talking points on global immunizations. Learn more and order your toolkit today! <http://www2.aap.org/international/immunization/shotatlife.html>



District VIII Update

Elizabeth Meade, MD, FAAP

District VIII Representative

SOYP Member since January 12, 2011

District VIII leadership came together (along with District I) July 24-26 in Boston for our annual District Meeting. As usual, it was an engaging and thought-provoking few days. We were fortunate to discuss the issue of prescription opiate addiction with Dr. Fred Holmes, a Vermont pediatrician who spent his last several years in practice treating a large contingent of adolescents and young adults battling opiate addiction. Dr. Holmes is the subject of the recent documentary "The Hungry Heart" and the makers of this film, along with one of Dr. Holmes' patients, were also on hand to offer insight into this under-recognized issue. Chapter officers left Boston thinking about how best to screen for opiate use in our patients, and more importantly what to do when we identify the problem.

We were thrilled to have several young physicians present at the meeting - in addition to myself, 3 YP Chapter Reps were also present either as chapter officers or guests. Dr. Rani Kharrubi from Arizona, Dr. Meghan Treitz from Colorado, and Dr. Lucy Hansen from Utah brought young physician perspectives to the table. We continue to explore the best ways to engage early-career pediatricians and provide valuable guidance in the first few years post-training.

District VIII is also excited to have 4 young physicians participating in the Young Physicians' Leadership Alliance (YPLA) this year in San Diego just before the NCE. SOYP is offering fantastic programming at this year's NCE, focused on how young physicians can advocate for themselves and promote career advancement early in their professional trajectory. As usual, we'll have our YP reception as well - we hope to see many of our section members in San Diego!

2014 promises to be a fantastic NCE!



cont. SOYP SOAP NOTES...

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SOYP District VIII Member Spotlight

Meghan Treitz, MD, FAAP

SOYP Member since June 17, 2011

Q. Who are you?

A. I am a general academic pediatrician and Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Colorado / Children's Hospital Colorado. Most of my scholarly work is in the realm of medical education. I am the Director of the Pediatric Resident Advocacy Rotation and Assistant Clerkship Director for Pediatrics at the University of Colorado.

Q. How did you get involved in the AAP?

A. As a resident, I joined the AAP and Colorado chapter, thanks to my residency program and the Colorado chapter who paid our dues. Upon completion of residency, I began creating an advocacy training program for our pediatric residents and thus became the liaison between the chapter and pediatric residents. Soon thereafter I was elected to the Board and then became Colorado's representative to the Section on Young Physicians. Soon I was also on the chapter Legislative Committee. Currently I am the chapter Secretary/Treasurer.

Q. What is your favorite book?

A. As an avid reader (I read at least one book per week) I have many favorite books, including *The Count of Monte Cristo* (Dumas), *Bleak House* (Dickens), *Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, Very Bad Day* (Voigt), *Rebecca* (deMaurier), *Anne of Green Gables* (Montgomery), and *The Westing Game* (Raskin).

What is your favorite developmental milestone?

Who doesn't love the social SMILE at the 2 month well child check? It warms the hearts of parents, staff, and pediatricians alike!

As a Reach Out and Read Medical Champion, I enjoy teaching residents about development around books and literacy – from the 6 month old baby who learns about the board book by putting it in his mouth, to the 12 month old who starts pointing to pictures, to the 3-4 year old who "reads" the story she has heard again and again.

I also enjoy having kids engage in the Draw-a-Person exercise. I love to see the development from early pictures with arms coming out of the head to the mature pictures that include every detail – from eyebrows to dimples to fingers and shoelaces.

Q. What advice do you have for other young physicians?

A. Become involved in your Chapter AAP! Once you get to know people in your chapter, you suddenly have a pediatric home that is larger than your institution or office. The enthusiasm is contagious and the opportunities are endless.

For information on your SOYP Executive Committee
and their contact information, click [here](#).

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