March 2010

TO: AAP Disaster Preparedness Contact Network

FROM: Daniel B Fagbuyi, MD, FAAP, Member, Disaster Preparedness Advisory Council
Laura Aird, MS, Manager, Disaster Preparedness

RE: AAP Disaster Preparedness and Response Initiatives, Progress, and Future Opportunities

Dear Colleagues:

As you are aware, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) established a Disaster Preparedness Advisory Council (DPAC) to develop and implement a strategic plan for AAP disaster preparedness and response efforts. Much progress has been made since the inception of the DPAC in 2007. We are contacting you to share our progress on AAP disaster preparedness initiatives and resources and to inform you of future opportunities for your involvement.

High priority activities for the DPAC include:

- Completing an AAP report documenting the H1N1 pandemic
- Developing AAP strategies to support recovery efforts in Haiti
- Encouraging organizational, chapter, and district continuity of operations/disaster planning
- Raising awareness of pediatric preparedness issues
- Seeking and responding to advocacy and policy opportunities
- Participating in education and training initiatives on disaster preparedness topics
- Communication: determining how to support the government’s goal of establishing a clearing house for children and disaster-related issues
- Increasing preparedness research and evidence, such as developing survey questions for a national opinion poll
- Securing funding to support and enhance AAP disaster preparedness initiatives
- Expanding the AAP Disaster Preparedness Contact Network

For more information on the DPAC, including a list of current members and liaisons, see the About Us page on the AAP Children & Disasters Web site.
HAITI EARTHQUAKE RESPONSE
The AAP with support from the DPAC is working at various levels to ensure that children’s needs are considered and taken care of in a strategic manner. The AAP and the National Association of Children’s Hospitals and Related Institutions (NACHRI) have formed a leadership team to support a coordinated pediatric response effort. Select AAP leaders have met with the Haitian Pediatric Society Executive Committee to discuss pediatric needs related to long-term recovery efforts. For information and resources, see the AAP Haiti Earthquake Pediatric Response/Recovery Web page.

H1N1 PANDEMIC
The H1N1 public health emergency raised awareness of the unique needs of children and culminated in an intense national focus on pediatric issues. The AAP formed a leadership team of core staff and pediatric leaders who worked to develop and highlight key resources. See the AAP H1N1 Web page for Health Professionals for more information.

Further, an emphasis on H1N1 strengthened the significance of DPAC and its contact network. Take away messages reinforced by this experience include:

- A combination of pediatric expert and stakeholder input is needed early on during all types of emergency or disaster situations.
- A team of pediatric experts should be convened to review available data, determine how the current situation is likely to impact children and pediatricians, and identify proactive response options. This pediatric team can help in adapting recommendations as a pandemic or other situation evolves.
- A key component of the AAP and governmental approach should be to enhance use of medical home strategies.
- DPAC members and liaisons made various presentations at the AAP 2009 National Conference and Exhibition (NCE) that focused on H1N1 issues, ranging from lessons learned to surge capacity. See the newly created PowerPoint Presentations Web page.
- An after-action discussion that involves AAP leadership and DPAC members is planned.

NATIONAL COMMISSION ON CHILDREN AND DISASTERS (NCCD)
The DPAC met recently with members of the National Commission to discuss ways that the AAP can support the Commission’s work. Activities include:

- Participation in the NCCD Long-Term Disaster Recover Workshop on February 21, 2010.
- Development of a pediatric countermeasures agenda in collaboration with the US Department of Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD).
- Ensuring that there is pediatric and stakeholder input into all disaster preparedness initiatives. Emphasis is currently being placed on efforts related to federal agencies that have a liaison relationship with the DPAC such as the FDA, NICHD, and the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and Department of Homeland Security (DHS).
- Highlighting experiences of pediatricians involved in disaster response as a result of the Haiti earthquake.
- Identifying key issues and contacts to compile information on how the health care system in certain US areas was affected by the situation in Haiti.

The NCCD was authorized under the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2008 and comprises ten commissioners, including three pediatricians—Michael Anderson, MD, FAAP; Irwin Redlener, MD, FAAP; and DPAC member David Schonfeld, MD, FAAP. The NCCD released an Interim Report to the President and Congress in October 2009.
APPLAUSE PLEASE!
The DPAC applauds the following agencies for their efforts to address pediatric disaster preparedness and the needs of children:

- The CDC established a pediatric desk within its Emergency Operations Center during the H1N1 pandemic.
- The ASPR appointed Andrew Garrett, MD, MPH, FAAP, to serve as Deputy Chief Medical Officer for the National Disaster Medical System. Dr Garrett served as Chief Medical Officer for the ASPR Incident Response Coordination Team that was charged with conducting the initial assessment in Haiti in January 2010.
- The FEMA National Advisory Council now includes a pediatrician, David Markenson, MD, FAAP.
- The DHS and FEMA established a Children’s Working Group. Terry Adirim, MD, MPH, FAAP serves as vice-chairperson for this group.

OPPORTUNITIES

**Develop a Written Disaster Preparedness Plan:** AAP Practice Management Online includes Disaster Preparedness for Pediatric Practices: An Online Tool, which was recently updated to include a template plan for practices that reflects input from the H1N1 2009 pandemic.

**Consider Applying for the FEMA National Advisory Council:** The DHS and FEMA are looking for emergency management professionals who are interested in serving on its National Advisory Council (NAC) for a term of 3 years. FEMA is seeking to fill 12 positions on the council this year as some members’ terms end on June 15. Applications may be submitted to FEMA-NAC@dhs.gov and must be received on or before 5:00 pm EST on Friday, March 5, 2010. For detailed information on how to apply, visit [http://www.fema.gov/about/nac](http://www.fema.gov/about/nac).

**Volunteer to Help with the Web Site:** The DPAC is seeking members who would be interested in volunteering to form a subcommittee to review/edit information for the AAP Children & Disasters Web Site. To volunteer or to request more information, e-mail DisasterReady@aap.org.

**Attend Sessions at the AAP National Conference and Exhibition (NCE):** The AAP NCE will be held October 2-5, 2010 in San Francisco, CA. Plan your schedule to attend the following disaster preparedness sessions:

- **Saturday, October 2, 2010:** 8:30 to 10:00 am
  S1038 Seminar
  International Pediatric Education in Disasters
  Steve Berman, MD, FAAP
  David Shonfeld, MD, FAAP

- **Sunday:** October 3, 2010 2:00 to 3:30 pm
  S2089 Seminar
  The Pediatrician’s Role in Disaster Preparedness, Recovery, and Community Resiliency
  Scott Needle, MD, FAAP
  Jeffrey Upperman, MD, FAAP

- **Monday:** October 4, 2010 4:00 to 5:30 pm
  S3119 Seminar
  National Commission on Children and Disasters Update
  Michael Anderson, MD, FAAP
  Irwin Redlener, MD, FAAP
AAP CHILDREN & DISASTERS WEB SITE UPDATES
The DPAC is pleased to announce that the AAP Children & Disasters Web site includes the following updates:

- Home page
- Haiti Earthquake Pediatric Response and Recovery
- Interim Recommendations for Initial Domestic Medical Screening of Haitian Orphan Parolees
- Promoting Adjustment and Helping Children Cope
- PowerPoint page
- Education/Training
- Calendar of Events
- Pediatric Education in Disasters Manual

This Web site is constantly being revised. All suggestions, comments, and additional resources are welcome! E-mail DisasterReady@aap.org with your ideas.

We appreciate your efforts to care and advocate for the needs of children. Please e-mail any comments to DisasterReady@aap.org.