

A subcommittee of our EMSC advisory committee, the Families with Special Health Care Needs Subcommittee, has been hard at work on a new program addressing the needs of children with physical, neurological, emotional, developmental or chronic health care issues. These children represent 1 in 5 of the pediatric population, and more work can be done to support them and their families, as well as the EMS, hospital, school staff and other caregivers who interact with them. We will soon go live with a web page, which will include resources to educate EMS providers on how to hold a special health care needs open house, help parents preplan with EMS for emergencies, and a form to communicate the child's most vital health care information to caregivers. A regional, quarterly virtual pediatric training will also be held in December on pediatric special health care needs, with continuing education provided.

Vicki has been working with five other states in the midwest to produce the first in a series of quarterly virtual pediatric symposiums. The first one will be held the evenings of Sept. 17 and 18, and the topic is human trafficking in the midwest. Registration for this event is now closed, as it reached its cap of 1,000 registrants. Free CEUs, CNE and CME will be provided.

The Pediatric Emergency Care Coordinator program is growing, with 168 PECCs in the state. We are expanding the program to include hospital ED PECCs as well as those for EMS agencies. Any time you can promote the PECC concept with your partners, please do so. At its core, it just providing EMSC with a contact at the hospital or EMS agency who is willing to receive emailed information from Vicki on pediatric resources and trainings, like the one on human trafficking, and use them as appropriate to help keep providers' pediatric skills fresh.

NEDARC's (National EMSC Data Analysis Resource Center) National Pediatric Readiness Survey that was postponed due to COVID has been rescheduled for launch May 3, 2021. This will ask hospitals to contribute to a fairly detailed survey to assess each hospital's preparedness to care for children. NEDARC is also surveying EMS agencies in January 2021. Overall scores on each survey help agencies and EDs see what they are doing well and what they need to work on, and are part of the federal assessment of Iowa's performance on grant requirements to maintain the program. Vicki will be encouraging hospitals and EMS agencies to participate as possible.

Any questions, please contact Vicki!