

SOUTH CAROLINA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS' NEWSLETTER September Newsletter 2021

President's Message – Robert Saul, MD, FAAP

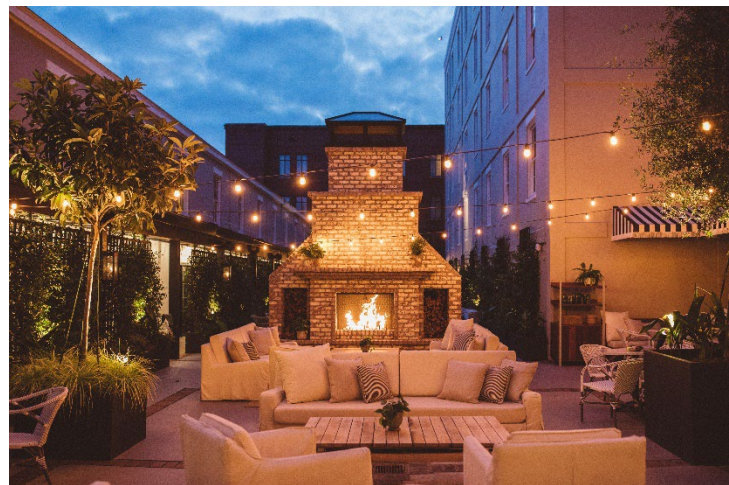
We continue to work hard to move forward during difficult times. The COVID-19 pandemic and the delta variant continue to dominate the conversation for primary care and specialty care pediatrics and our colleagues in education, social services and really every other segment of the population that is concerned with children and families.

We held a news conference last month (see last month's newsletter). Letters were sent to mayors of the major cities in SC. Dr. Hunter Moore started a grassroots movement to get physicians (over 1400!) to sign a letter encouraging masks and vaccines. We just held another press conference with our education partners (SC Association of School Nurses, SC Parent Teachers Association, SC Education Association, Palmetto State Teachers Association) to push the legislature to revoke proviso 1.108 and allow local school districts the autonomy to make decisions compatible with sound public health measures during a pandemic. Members of the Executive Committee and others continue to respond to various inquiries from the media and appear at school board meetings (the latter were sometimes in acrimonious and hostile settings). Testimony was offered on 9/22/21 to the SC Senate Medical Affairs Subcommittee and then again in the next several weeks to the Joint Citizens and Legislative Committee on Children (JCLCC).

So...I want to emphasize that the SCAAP is working hard on your behalf. We welcome your continued support, encourage your continued membership, and request that you ask any colleagues that are not members to join. We need to continue to grow and advocate for children.

Mark Your Calendars!! 2022 SC Chapter of the AAP CATCH Meeting January 21-22 at the Hotel Emeline, Charleston, SC

The SCAAP CATCH Meeting is for South Carolina Chapter members and their staff. More details will follow in the coming months. CME will be offered and there is no registration fee.



COVID-19 TOWN HALL MEETING

Next COVID-19 Town Hall Meeting – Thursday, September 30 at 7:00 p.m. CT

The link to register for the Sept. 30th Town Hall is:

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_GUmXLVQtSuCJwBI9ZlZt5g

The link to the Town Hall Webpage (info on past meetings) is:

<https://www.aap.org/en/pages/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-infections/connecting-with-the-experts/>

LEVEL 2 SOUTH CAROLINA FOSTER CARE PROJECT ECHO

We have been working on a “Level 2” South Carolina Foster Care Project ECHO along with some other individuals (Dr. Elizabeth Wallis, Gwynne Goodlett, Kristine Hobbs) across the state. The goal of this Project ECHO is:

“Establish and support a network of primary care providers knowledgeable of trauma informed, person-centered, culturally responsive best practices and available community services for children and youth in foster care.”

There is no cost to participate in the Project ECHO, and CME will be provided through MUSC. We would love to have as many pediatricians as possible participate in this project! I am attaching the flyer with information about schedules and registration. The first session was scheduled for Tuesday, 9/14 from 12:30-1:30 – however new participants are welcome to register and join the series even if they miss the first couple sessions.

Thank you for all that you do for the children of South Carolina!

Kathleen Domm, MD, FAAP

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NEXT WEEK – (SEPTEMBER 27- OCTOBER 2) IS PrEP AWARENESS WEEK IN SOUTH CAROLINA



Dear Colleague:

The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) is pleased to announce the return of SC PrEP Awareness Week, September 27- October 2. This is a statewide campaign to increase HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) awareness, access, and uptake in South Carolina.

We are inviting medical providers, pharmacists, nurses, social workers, and health educators to participate in the daily webinars hosted by the South Carolina HIV/AIDS Clinical Training Center, which is a partner of the Southeast AIDS Training and Education Center (SE ATEC), to learn more about PrEP. Participants will have the opportunity to earn up to 5 FREE continuing medical, nursing, social work, or pharmacy education credits.

Attached is the PrEP brochure.

Amid a global pandemic, HIV remains a significant health concern, especially in the southern states, which account for more than nearly 50% of new HIV infections. Eight years after the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) approval of PrEP, PrEP services remain underutilized in southern states. The southern states combine to make up a crucial target region for increasing HIV prevention and PrEP uptake due to the area having a greater PrEP-to-need ratio. The PrEP-to-need ratio is calculated by comparing newly diagnosed HIV infections with current PrEP prescriptions.

Increasing awareness and providers' knowledge about PrEP will support the rise in PrEP uptake across the state. This year's theme is, Let's Talk About PrEP! Activities will focus on initiating the discussion of sexual health, HIV risk, and PrEP. Studies have shown that barriers to PrEP include stigma and access. Encouraging clinicians to "normalize" sexual health and HIV screening will assist with reducing stigma. Clinicians also will be reminded of their unique capability to provide PrEP resources to clients and help increase the access to PrEP services.

Please visit the following webpages for more information about PrEP week and PrEP resources:
SC PrEP Awareness Page <https://scdhec.gov/infectious-diseases/hiv-std-viral-hepatitis/pre-exposure-prophylaxis-prep>
PrEP Week Brochure <https://scdhec.gov/infectious-diseases/hiv-std-viral-hepatitis/prep-awareness-week>
PrEP Provider Toolkit <https://scdhec.gov/infectious-diseases/hiv-std-viral-hepatitis/pre-exposure-prophylaxis-prep/prep-provider-toolkit>
scdhec.gov/PrEP <https://scdhec.gov/infectious-diseases/hiv-std-viral-hepatitis/pre-exposure-prophylaxis-prep>

If you have any questions or concerns, please email us at PrEPMeSC@dhec.sc.gov.

Linda J. Bell, M.D.

State Epidemiologist
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S.C. Dept. of Health & Environmental Control

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