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# South Carolina Chapter

American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®



## SCAAP Newsletter

April 2023

Friends,

Happy April! We've been keeping busy...

- Please vote [here](#) for the **member-at-large position by 4/30/23** (note: Board Members, you've already voted via separate ballot so no need to vote again).
- Mark your calendar for the **annual summer chapter meeting at Grove Park** from August 10-13, 2023...registration link coming soon.
- We completed our application for outstanding **chapter awards**.
- **PHE ends May 11! VERY IMPORTANT**...If you haven't seen the [SCDHHS bulletin](#), please, check it out, and be sure to post [this flyer](#) all over! Per Dr. Wessinger, consider "printing the flyer in mass quantities to give to each Medicaid patient at check-in or checkout (or ask each parent with a cell phone to scan the QR Code on the flyer) as contact numbers and addresses for families have not been updated since the pandemic started. If DHHS or the MCO cannot contact patients to recertify, a significant number of those not reached will end up being temporarily disenrolled. Also, front desk staff have probably gotten out of the habit of verifying eligibility on each visit, as no one has been disenrolled since the PHE started. I would also recommend trying to make sure office staff are verifying their own contact information so that if there are denials, the office can then reach out to the families to get them to contact DHHS to re-enroll ASAP. The process will last 12 months, and most plans are looking at those who would have aged out of Medicaid already were it not for the PHE already, so pay particular attention to verifying anyone over 19. Lastly, if a patient is found to be no longer eligible, they are supposed to be given info re ACA Exchange Plans. It would be a good idea to recommend that providers

SCAAP presents...  
*Medicaid unwinding:  
What's a pediatrician  
to do?*

**Kevin Wessinger, MD**  
Medical director,  
SC DHHS

**Greg Barabell, MD**  
CMO  
Clear Bell Solutions

**Martha Edwards, MD**  
VP, SCAAP

**Shelli Quenga**  
Chief innovation officer  
Palmetto Project

4/25/23 @ 6-7PM EST

[HTTPS://BIT.LY/MEDICAIDSC](https://bit.ly/MedicaidSC)

NO RSVP/REGISTRATION  
NEEDED. CLICK LINK TO JOIN!

- Our nominations for the **State Child Fatality Advisory Committee** were accepted by the governor's office, and Dr. Mary Fran Crosswell was named to the committee. State law (SC 63-11-1930 (A) (15)) requires one position to be filled by a child abuse pediatrician nominated by SCAAP.
- We signed on to this year's **Gun Violence Prevention (GVP) Research Roundtable FY 2024 appropriations** [letter](#).
- We joined this [sign-on letter](#) requesting \$13 million for the **Pediatric Mental Health Care Access** (PMHCA) program in FY24.
- Dr. Jill Aiken, along with Lutine and the executive committee, are embarking upon a **membership effort** focused on recruitment and retention!
- Dr. Edwards attended **Pediatric Advisory Committee** and would like to share a few items here: We are down from 97% to 95% of school students vaccinated, as rates of religious exemption are rising. Vaccine rates are lowest in Spartanburg area. WIC reports breastfeeding rates are up now to 28% from 22% among WIC families, felt to be partly related to the formula shortage. NBS for Krabbe will begin in late May 2023, and if positive, will need to be referred to a BMT specialist same day of notification.
- SCAAP meets monthly with **QTIP & SCDHHS**, and Dr. Beth Morphis has joined the group!
- Regarding struggles with **prior auths for ADHD meds in the context of the med shortages**, the amazing Dr. Wessinger shared from his colleagues at SC DHHS: "Below are the direct clinical PA contacts for each of the five MCOs and Healthy Connections (FFS Medicaid). Each MCO and FFS has instructed their PA team to allow any ADHD PA request for an override to extend until June 30, 2023, when being requested as an alternative for an ADHD drug that is currently unavailable due

give the beneficiaries and providers enough time to get through the shortage. The demand for ADHD medications should decrease at this time since many of the beneficiaries will be on a drug holiday during summer vacation.” AAP members should feel free to [raise these issues](#) with the [AAP SOAPM hassle factor form](#) so that the AAP can advocate as well.

Company	Clinical PA Number
Absolute Total Care	Ph: 866-399-0928; option 1, option 5 Fax: 833-982-4001
Healthy Blue by BlueChoice of SC	Retail drug phone: 844-410-6890 Retail drug fax: 844-512-9005 Med Inj phone: 833-988-1264 Med Inj fax: 844-512-7027 *PAs may be submitted via phone, fax, or ePA (through CoverMyMeds login)
Humana Healthy Horizons in South Carolina	Email: covermymeds/epa/Humana Ph: 800-555-2546 Fax: 877-486-2621
First Choice by Select Health of SC	Ph: 866-610-2773
Molina Healthcare of SC	Ph: 855-237-6178
Healthy Connections (FFS Medicaid)	Ph: 866-247-1181

- Our partners at the Institute for Child Success have put together a [report](#) on the state of **child mental health**, and we have formed a task force of SCAAP members (Drs. Jan Key, Deandra Clark, Beth Morphis, Dane Pierce, along with our executive committee)...the group has been meeting to work on actionable ideas for each of 4 primary drivers (awareness/education, policy/advocacy, capacity building, prevention/self-care)...look forward to good stuff from this crew!
- Dr. Mack represented the chapter in a **League of Women Voters** panel on the AAP's position on gender-affirming care.
- Board members are in the process of completing an annual conflict of interest documentation and have voted on the career achievement award and the child advocate award...come to the SCAAP annual meeting to find out the winners!

### Legislative Advocacy Updates

- Our **SCAAP state house day** was 3/9/23, and we focused our efforts on 988 funding, tobacco preemption, and school lunch funding. TY to our partners at ICS & Pecan Consulting! Check out the pics [here](#)!
- Check out the [legislative update](#) as of 4/1/23 shared by the incredible Maggie Cash.
- Drs. Greenhouse & Mack testified as invited experts in Senate Medical Affairs subcommittee in opposition to [S.627](#), which proposes a **gender-affirming care** ban for children under 18yo and forces schools to out children before they are ready. Additional members testified in opposition the following week during the public

leaders [here](#), Greenville online [coverage](#), P&C [coverage](#), Reckon [coverage](#), Miles City Star [coverage](#), WLTX [coverage](#), ABC Columbia [coverage](#), [ABC News4](#), [WSPA](#), [WRDW](#), [Local Today](#). We also received an influx of communications from grateful children and parents in response to our testimony. Here is an excerpt from one: “I am ever so passionate and pleased with the care I've been receiving. I see a future for myself now...I want to be a voice for those who don't have one, possibly alongside you.”

- We continue to support the hate crime penalty enhancement [bill H.3014](#), which is moving along!
- Dr. Ramkumar joined a group of stakeholders and members of the K-12 subcommittee at the state house to attempt to come to an agreement on [H.3309](#) (seizure safe schools) about the role of pediatricians and pediatric subspecialists in managing **children with epilepsy in schools**. TBD!
- We continue to oppose [S.109](#) & [H.3594](#) “constitutional carry.” H.3594 includes a provision that would allow a CWP holder that is 18 or older to have a firearm in a “secure” glovebox, etc. of a car on a school campus- but if that bill receives review in the Senate, we will have several opportunities to advocate against that provision.
- We support [H.4122](#), which would improve access to lifesaving meds, including epinephrine autoinjectors, naloxone, etc in school.
- We continue to oppose [S.505](#) & [H.3988](#), which would allow pharmacists and **pharmacy techs to test and provide treatment for certain diagnoses** and would **lower the age for pharmacists to provide routine vaccinations to 12 from 18yo**.

Dr. Mack testified on 3/8/23 against H.3988 in House 3M subcommittee, citing the specific need to preserve the medical home, especially in the context of the mental health crisis in which every visit is a mental wellness check. From the AAP: “These actions, while influenced by the policy dynamics of the current stage of the COVID-19 response and vaccination campaign, precede the pandemic. Attempts to continuously lower the ages at which children can receive pharmacy-based immunizations, or the type of immunizations received there, were being considered in state legislative sessions prior to the beginning of the current public health emergency, prompting a lengthy cycle of renegotiation over those terms. The AAP [opposed the PREP Act amendments](#) permitting pharmacy-based childhood immunizations at ages 3-18 due to the pandemic. Ensuring that children and adolescents receive the full spectrum of care in the pediatric medical home is more important than ever.”

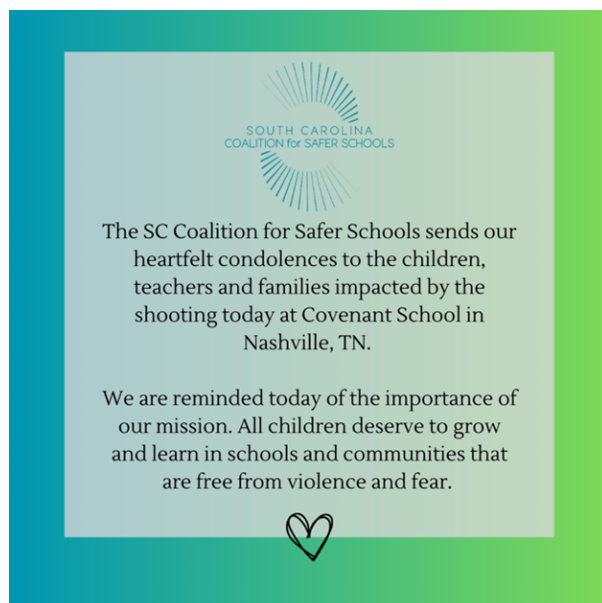
- Led by Dr. Kent Jones in partnership with geneticists and other advocates, the chapter supported [S.394](#) focused on providing more timely care when abnormal results appear on newborn screens...Dr. Skinner testified, and the bill passed the

the week of April 17th. Stay tuned.

- Drs. Oddo, Miller, Greenhouse, McCafferty, and Mack attended the **AAP Advocacy Conference** in Washington, DC, March 26-28. Members of the delegation met with the offices of Sens. Scott & Graham and Rep. Mace to discuss making the digital space safer for children.



- [H.4154](#) designates April 4, 2023, as Children's Advocacy Center Day!
- [SC Coalition for Safer Schools](#) updates: [H.3360](#) passed, which would create the statewide school safety center. This bill has a good chance of getting signed into law this year if the Senate Judiciary Committee schedules it for review. The budget passed by the House includes a \$20 million line-item specifically dedicated to safety-related facility upgrades in schools - meaning it provides money for things like locking classroom doors, securing school entry points, etc. Also, see this statement [here](#) following the Nashville school shooting:



## Section on Early Career Physicians (SOECP) Corner

Below is some information that may be of interest to early career physicians: leadership opportunities, SOECP award nominations, and a small project funding opportunity for critical care fellows/junior faculty. Please feel free to reach out with any questions!

Your SOECP District IV Reps

DR: Laura Workman, MD— [laura.workman@louisville.edu](mailto:laura.workman@louisville.edu)

ADR: Erika Cravanas, MD— [erika.cravanas@duke.edu](mailto:erika.cravanas@duke.edu)

### 1. Leadership Opportunity!

As a career-stage interest group of the AAP, the Section on Early Career Physicians (SOECP) works to connect our members to varying opportunities within our section and the Academy. Beyond our executive committee leaders, we have a network of members acting as liaisons to AAP committees, sections, and councils, in addition to members on SOECP and external committees and project-focused groups. We are currently looking for SOECP members to bring the early career voice to the following AAP groups as liaisons.

The positions will each have an effective start date of July 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Eligibility:** Though membership in the SOECP is open to all AAP members, applicants must have completed training (either residency or fellowship, whichever is most recent) within the past 10 years at the time of initial appointment.

- SOECP Liaison to the Committee on Coding and Nomenclature ([COCN](#))
- SOECP Liaison to the Committee on Infectious Diseases ([COID](#)) Red Book Online (RBO) Team
- SOECP Liaison to the Pediatric Research in Office Settings ([PROS](#))
- SOECP Liaison to the Section on Advances in Therapeutics and Technology ([SOATT](#))
- SOECP Liaison to the Section on Integrative Medicine ([SOIM](#))
- SOECP Liaison to the Section on Telehealth Care ([SOTC](#))

**Deadline:** Sunday, April 16, 2023 | [Learn more and apply](#)

### 2. SOECP Awards!

Do you know someone who has been an incredible mentor, especially to those

that is championing community initiatives that address health disparities? We want to hear about these great things!

The SOECP is excited to open the nomination forms for our awards and showcase the incredible work of the Academy's early career physician members. Click on the links below for more information about each award and to submit a nomination.

- [Advancement in Research Award](#)
- [Excellence in Education Award](#)
- [Leadership in Advocacy Award](#)

Any questions? Please reach out to:

Elisha Ferguson

Manager, Early Career Member Engagement

[eferguson@aap.org](mailto:eferguson@aap.org)

### **3. Small Project Funding Opportunity! —For Critical Care Fellows or Junior Faculty SOCC Small Project Funding Opportunity (\$5000): Applications Now Being Accepted! --** Deadline: [4/15/2023](#)

The AAP Section on Critical Care (SOCC) is pleased to announce the call for applications for up to three (3) small project awards for 2023 devoted to:

- Education in Pediatric Critical Care Medicine
- Advocacy in Pediatric Critical Care Medicine
- Outcomes of Quality and Safety Initiatives in the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit

Fellows or junior faculty (5 years or less after completion of their fellowship) are eligible for awards of up to \$5,000 for one year:

\$4,000 for the project *-to be provided initially*

\$1000 towards travel to the 2024 [AAP National Conference](#), at which awardees are required to submit and present an abstract of their project during the SOCC program - *to be provided upon project completion with provision of a project report and confirmation of conference attendance*

**To apply for a SOCC Small Project Award, complete the online application form via the link below to include upload of all required documents:**

<https://form.jotform.com/Subspecialty/SOCCSmallProjectAwards>

**Deadline: April 15, 2023 (11:59pm ET)**

**Important: SOCC membership is required. Applicants must be current SOCC**



*Initial Funding of \$4000 will be available starting July 1, 2023.*

*Travel Funding of \$1000 will be available after July 1, 2024.*

*Feedback from reviewers will be provided to all applicants.*

Note, these awards are not grants. The projects are funded initially in the form of an honorarium with the initial \$4000 check made payable to the awardee's institution with the provision of a W9 from that institution. Travel funds a year later to present the project abstract during the SOCC program at the AAP National Conference will be provided as a \$1000 check payable directly to the awardee. To apply for SOCC membership, [click here](#) or call **AAP Membership at (866) 843.2271**. If you are uncertain of your SOCC member status, you may also call this number to verify. Questions? Please contact the Awards Chair, [Dr Linda Siegel](#) or SOCC Staff, [Sue Tellez](#).

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## Check Out These Resources and Opportunities

Access for All, A **Reproductive Health Summit** presented by New Morning will be taking place on April 13-14, 2023, at the Columbia Marriott located in Columbia, South Carolina. Register now and take advantage of early bird pricing, which ends on March 6<sup>th</sup>. To register and see the full conference schedule, please visit their [website](#).

Check out this AAP webinar on **countering social media disinformation on COVID-19 vaccination** on April 4, 2023, from 10:00-11:15 a.m. (CDT). [Learn more and register here](#).

**SCMA's annual conference** is coming up April 27-30 in Myrtle Beach, and adolescent medicine specialist Dr. Mike Guyton is speaking! See the agenda & registration link [here](#).

Check out [Medicaid's bulletin](#) regarding **coverage for factors for hemophilia patients**.

Check out this opportunity via the American College of Lifestyle Medicine to [receive 8 CME/CE credits FREE!](#)

Dr. Amati continues to represent us well as our **oral health** chapter advocate! She would like to share a [slide deck](#) from Dr. Chelsea Fosse from AAPD on advocacy and [another slide deck](#) from AAP on oral health resources.

We want to make you aware of the [data](#) demonstrating that pulse oximetry may overestimate **blood oxygen levels in patients of color**.



South Carolina departments of Medicine, Family Medicine, and Pediatrics to sponsor **training of primary care clinicians in practice transformation to prepare for value-based care** such as Patient-centered Medical Home (PCMH) or Accountable Care Organizations (ACO). [See more info here!](#)

Dr. Ranya Chakra is our faithful vaping/tobacco prevention guru, and she would like to share a [Vape Talk for youth](#) along with [talking points](#).

See here for [DHEC PPE ordering form](#).

Can we interest you in (FREE) [ASL virtual classes](#)?

Resources for gender-affirming care:

[Plume](#), [Folx](#), and [Trace](#)

See other phone resources [here](#) for trans youth in our state.

Download this [quick reference guide](#) from the AAP for **age-appropriate dosing of the COVID-19 vaccine**. The chart includes information for immunocompromised children and has been updated to include the latest booster dosing information for children under 5.

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## Advocacy Corner

Check out [www.scaap.org/advocacy](http://www.scaap.org/advocacy) for our **latest actionable state issues**! We are frequently updating this list of issues, and we need your help to get the messages to legislators. In case you're curious, in 2022, there were 87 unique users, 1335 messages sent, and 7 action items we utilized through this platform!

National AAP advocacy updates:

- Check out the **national AAP advocacy action center** for opportunities to advocate [here!](#)
- The AAP just revised its [advocacy guide](#)- feel free to take a dive yourself and to share w trainees!
- Check out the winter AAP advocacy report [here](#).
- Check out this free MOC & CME opportunity for members- **"Fighting Racism to Advance Child Equity"**- [link here](#).
- Want to become an AAP spokesperson? Contact [ssmartin@aap.org](mailto:ssmartin@aap.org).

- Feel free to submit a blog post to [AAP Voices](#) on the issues affecting your patients.

### Gun Violence Prevention

The Academy continues to call for needed and urgent policy action to end gun violence and protect children, families and communities throughout the country. On the heels of the school shooting in Nashville, the AAP Tennessee Chapter issued [this statement](#). The Academy also [amplified](#) on social media the more than 300 pediatrician testimonials that were shared last year with lawmakers, urging Congress to take action.

*This [Vox interview](#) with pediatric trauma surgeon Chethan Sathya, MD, MSc, FAAP, describes the physical toll that gun violence takes on victims and need for policy change.*

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## Student, Resident, and Fellow Membership Fees: Nudge a Trainee Today to [Join!](#)

**Medical Students:** \$25 national AAP, \$0 SCAAP

**Residents:** \$135 national, \$30 SCAAP (usually sponsored by a program)

**Fellowship Trainees:** \$145 national, \$30 SCAAP

Visit [www.scaap.org](http://www.scaap.org) and go to membership to join.

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## Youth Access to Psychiatry Program (YAP-P)

DMH has a grant-funded program called Youth Access to Psychiatry Program (YAP-P). For the majority of children presenting with behavioral health issues, with rapid consultation with a DMH child psychiatrist, the care of the child can continue to be managed by the pediatrician or family practice physician. Should it appear that the child has complex and serious behavioral health problems, they may need to be referred for care to a DMH mental health center, and the program's goal is to assist with those types of referrals as well. See the [presentation & brief description](#) of the program here. For more information, contact Dr. Eve Fields, MD, at [eve.fields@scdmh.org](mailto:eve.fields@scdmh.org).

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## Mark Your Calendars!

**SCAAP Activities:**

## National AAP activities:

- 4/4/2023: [Webinar: Countering COVID Vaccination Disinformation](#)
- 4/6/2023: [Pediatric Tobacco Control Funding Opportunity: Visiting Lectureship Proposals Due](#)
- 4/6/2023: [Webinar: Utilizing Collaboration Between Schools and Clinicians to Address Tobacco Use](#)
- 4/6/2023: [Discussion Panel Series: Where School-based Health Fits Within the Medical Home for CYSHCN – Session 1: Policy](#)
- 4/7/2023: [Webinar Series: Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders – Session 3](#)
- 4/11/2023: [Webinar: Learn How to Identify and Respond to COVID Disinformation Threats in Social Media](#) (or choose to attend the [April 18 session](#))
- 4/11/2023: [Discussion Panel Series: Where School-based Health Fits Within the Medical Home for CYSHCN – Session 2: Practice Level](#)
- 4/14/2023: [2023 National Conference & Exhibition Abstracts Due](#)
- 4/14/2023: [Webinar Series: Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders – Session 4](#)
- 4/14-15/2023: [Diagnosis and Treatment of Common Pediatric Mental Health Disorders Course](#)
- 4/15/2023: [Chapter Grants for Adolescent Vaccinations and Wellness Applications Due](#)
- 4/15/2023: [Applications for Small Project Awards from the SOCC Due](#)
- 4/15/2023: [Nominations for AAP SOCC Distinguished Career Award Due](#)
- 4/17/2023: [Discussion Panel Series: Where School-based Health Fits Within the Medical Home for CYSHCN – Session 3: Systems of Care](#)
- 4/17/2023: [Applications for the AAP Practical Pediatrics CME Planning Group Due](#)
- 4/18/2023: [Webinar: Learn How to Identify and Respond to COVID Disinformation Threats in Social Media](#) (or choose to attend the [April 11 session](#))
- 4/21/2023: [Webinar Series: Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders – Session 5](#)
- 4/28-30/2023: [Practical Pediatrics CME Course in Nevada](#)
- 4/28/2023: [Nominations for 2023 AAP Education Award Due](#)
- 4/30/2023: Nominations for SOECP Awards Due:
  - [Research Award](#)
  - [Education Award](#)
  - [Advocacy Award](#)

- 5/31/2023: [Grant Opportunity: Leonard P. Rome CATCH Visiting Professorship Applications Due](#)
- [Future NCE dates](#)

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## SCAAP Information

### SCAAP officers (August 2022 – July 2024):

- Elizabeth Mack, MD, MS, FAAP [mackeli@musc.edu](mailto:mackeli@musc.edu) - President
- Martha Edwards, MD, FAAP [mmcedwards@yahoo.com](mailto:mmcedwards@yahoo.com) - VP
- Ramkumar Jayagopalan, MD, FAAP [Ramkumarjayagopalan@gmail.com](mailto:Ramkumarjayagopalan@gmail.com) - Secretary/treasurer
- Bob Saul, MD, FAAP [robertsaul@me.com](mailto:robertsaul@me.com) – Past president & Nominating committee chair

### [SCAAP Executive committee, Board, Committees, Liaisons.](#)

**Lutine Management Associates:** <https://lutinemanagement.com/our-team/>

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If you would like to contact SCAAP, please email [Ray Saputelli](#).

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