

by Kathy Clayton

Texas Children's Hospital EMS Center of Excellence

Texas Children's Hospital will soon open a pediatric EMS Center of Excellence (COE), an innovative collaboration between pediatric emergency medicine and prehospital emergency medical services. The Center will be under the direction of Dr. Paul Sirbaugh, clinical chief, of pediatric emergency medicine in the Department of Pediatrics at Baylor College of Medicine. Sirbaugh, who spearheaded the creation of the EMS COE, is also assistant medical director for the Houston Fire Department, EMS Division. Texas Children's Hospital's EMS COE establishes partnerships among prehospital and hospital-based providers and between the community, families, and primary care physicians. The partnership will lead to policy-making and injury prevention, research that becomes translated into practice, education that improves patient care and clinical care that is evidence-based.

As a partner with Texas Children's Hospital, the EMSC State Partnership will be working side-by-side with the EMS COE to expand on what has been accomplished locally, statewide and nationwide to support the development of a regionalized, coordinated and accountable EMS infrastructure, and to cultivate both local and national leaders with expertise in prehospital pediatrics.



Recently, a Collin County Community College paramedic class participated in the Fall Harvest Boxes program, which is part of Meals on Wheels in McKinney. Paramedic students assembled more than a dozen boxes filled with food, personal items, toiletries and household items that they donated to help the area's needy residents. Associate Professor Jodie Harbert said, "It was amazing to see how excited the paramedic students were to organize and help those who were a little less fortunate than themselves."

Off-duty Arlington firefighter aids heart attack patient

In December, off-duty Arlington firefighter Lt. Michelle Peña, EMT-I, noticed that 78-year-old William Campbell had passed out as his granddaughter's graduation ceremony at the University of Texas at Arlington as it was just beginning.

It turns out that Campbell was having a heart attack.

According to local news reports, Campbell had no pulse and was not breathing when Peña responded. She helped use an AED, along with compressions on the chest to bring back Campbell's pulse.

"We got him on the ground, made sure the AED was placed on correctly, analyzed it, and it said he needed to

be shocked," Peña reported. The firefighter was at the ceremony watching her daughter graduate. Peña was attending with her other child, who is also a paramedic. Together they helped revive Campbell.

William Campbell doesn't remember any of the chaos. The 78-year-old woke up in the hospital, soon realizing how lucky he was. "I want to give them a hug and a great thanks for what they done for me," he said. Campbell didn't get to see his granddaughter walk across the stage, but because of quick-thinking bystanders, he'll be able to see her in person again.

Seton builds “home-away-from-home” for *STAR Flight*

In January, Seton Health Care Family, *STAR Flight* and Central Texas community leaders gathered at Dell Children’s Medical Center of Central Texas for the grand opening celebration of *STAR Flight*’s on-site, live-in accommodations at the hospital.

The 1,175-square-foot specialized accommodations include three bedrooms, two bathrooms, a communications room that allows the

pilots to be linked in to the network transport and emergency systems, and a full kitchen. The accommodations also include two specialty refrigerators/freezers for blood and for medications.

Dr. James Kempema, *STAR Flight* medical director, praised Dell Children’s Level I Trauma Center designation—the highest for trauma care. “Being on-site allows us to be part of the care process and learn from Dell Children’s medical experts

to enhance the care that *STAR Flight* provides children in transport.”

This facility is the second on-site hospital quarters in Central Texas for *STAR Flight*. The region’s first *STAR Flight* crew quarters were established at University Medical Center Brackenridge 25 years ago. Work has just begun to upgrade the UMC quarters.

The projects are part of Seton Healthcare Family’s expanded agreement with *STAR Flight*, which establishes or upgrades live-in accommodations at Seton’s two Level I trauma centers.

“The Seton Healthcare Family’s long and evolving relationship with *STAR Flight* is a demonstration of our shared commitment to provide critically ill or injured Central Texans the best possible access to emergency care,” said Greg Hartman, president and CEO of Seton’s Central Group, which includes UMC Brackenridge and Seton Medical Center Austin.

Although the majority of *STAR Flight*’s responses are to assist people experiencing medical problems or suffering from traumatic injuries, *STAR Flight* is also a critical component of the neonatal transport program, and responds to requests from rural hospitals to transport very sick patients to hospitals able to provide higher levels of care.

Other Seton responsibilities include providing necessary blood for the *STAR Flight* crew via the Seton Blood Bank and a Seton training program that allows *STAR Flight* members to participate in clinical rotations.

Since its inception, *STAR Flight* has transported more than 24,500 patients over nearly 700,000 miles.



Greg Hartman, president and CEO of Seton’s Central Group, welcomes *STAR Flight* to their new home at Dell Children’s Medical Center.



STAR Flight paramedic Stephen Maier shows off the flight rescue team’s new Dell Children’s accommodations.

Local & Regional EMS News



Acadian Ambulance Service and WOAI-TV in San Antonio teamed up for the "Don't Mess with Texting" campaign.

Acadian partners with TV station for texting while driving campaign

Don't mess with texting.

That's the theme of a safety campaign sponsored by Acadian Ambulance and WOAI, the NBC affiliate in San Antonio. Thousands of thumb bands (think tiny rubber bracelets) with the slogan and anti-texting pledge cards already have been handed out; the campaign will continue through 2012 and will be expanded to Southeast Texas.

WOAI produced a number of commercials about the campaign, including two featuring *Today's* Ann Curry and celebrity host and chef Rachael Ray.

The bands have been handed out at standbys, conventions and promotional events, and several schools have requested them for distribution at assemblies and

safety events. Bags of the bands also were put on each Acadian ambulance and wheelchair van so they could be given out at hospitals and facilities.

"We've all seen the terrible effects of texting while driving," said Troy Mayer, vice president of operations for Central and South-Central Texas. "Our 'Don't mess with texting' campaign is just another way to remind drivers that no text is more important than their life."

In addition to the public service campaign, Acadian had a hand in providing local relief when staff, families and friends from across Texas, Louisiana and Mississippi recently participated in a drive to "Fill an Ambulance." Donations



Thumb bands are a constant reminder of the "Don't Mess with Texting" message.

ranged from baby items to household goods and toiletries. Checks and cash were sent to the Salvation Army's fund for Texas fire victims.

With the acquisition of NorthStar EMS in December, Acadian now serves the Houston and Dallas markets, along with 15 counties, including Bexar, Live Oak, Travis, Williamson, Hays, Bell, Falls, Coryell, Orange, Jefferson, Hardin, Jasper, Newton, Sabine and Chambers counties.

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