



Wednesday, January 31, 2024

8:00am – Teams

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER: The Northeast Florida Pediatric Society (NEFPS) meeting was called to order on Wednesday, January 31, 2024 at about 8:06am by Julie Kellogg, MD, President.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES: The minutes of the November 29, 2023 NEFPS meeting were adopted as written.

ITEM	DISCUSSION
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OLD BUSINESS	None
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NEW BUSINESS	<p>Dr. Rathore noted that there is still a lot of influenza with serious complications being seen. There were three deaths due to influenza which is more than seen in the past. Two of the deaths were unimmunized, complex children, one a recent immigrant. He stresses the continuation of giving immunizations. He also discussed reports of measles cases in many parts of the U.S. but Jacksonville is not one of them. The group will be apprised of any changes in our area regarding +/- measles.</p>
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He asked those on the call if practices were receiving “reservoir maps”? The CDC reported that the shortage of “reservoir maps” is over as well as access to the “artistry profile”. Dr. Reddy noted that they received a few at Rainbow Peds but didn’t receive the message about the shortages being over. Dr. Rathore added that the CDC is keeping a tight wrap on available doses. Dr. Reddy said that the rep calls periodically to say she can get 10 more doses. This is not enough to cover the volume of newborns that are eligible to for **Beyfortus**, so full access is not available. Dr. Rathore responded that colleagues in other parts of the country are also reporting this.

Dr. Rathore also reported that they are seeing a lot of cases of syphilis and asked that these patients be followed. The CDC reported that the levels of syphilis in the U.+S. are mirroring what was seen in the 1950s! So be aware that when you have syphilis you also have other STIs, including HIV.

Dr. Kellogg asked Dr. Rathore if the public health department should be contacted for an evaluation in suspected measles cases. He concurred and communicated the importance of letting the health department know and asked that suspected cases **are not** sent to the emergency department as that will expose staff and more children. The last time there was an outbreak of measles in Jacksonville was in 1992, before children were receiving two shots. In the last 20 years or so there might be one or two cases were always the unvaccinated and usually recent immigrants.

**STANDING
BUSINESS**

School Health Program: Dr. Beverly recently met with Dr. Natasha Thomas, MD, MP. She is the official in charge of health for the school system, a doctorate level nurse practitioner. Her cell #904-438-7876; email: thomasn@duvalschools.org. She's only been on the job for a couple of months but has thousands of emails to address. She's very willing to talk to folks and learn from them.

She also reported that the eternal shortage of school nurses persists due to the lack of funding. Each nurse cover 4-5 schools. Using some leftover COVID emergency money nearly 20 new nurses have been hired. She has no idea how long they be able to keep them. Each nurse will be conducting physicals. The communication between the schools and nursing is much improved.

FL Chapter - American Academy of Pediatrics (FCAAP) & FMA/CMS – Dr. Trapane stated that Dr. Hudak was in Tallahassee today and therefore unable to give a report. However, Dr. Rana Alissa volunteered to talk about FCAAP. Things have been extremely busy during the fourth week of the current legislative session. Many bills need attention, unfortunately some are not very good for physicians. Birth centers are trying to expand and do C-Sections, provide anesthesia and asking to join with the OBs. There is no requirement for a pediatrician or neonatologist and it look like this bill is going to pass. Another bill that is being worked, on with the health department, will require a hearing screen before an infant can be discharged from a birth center. As you all know, this is done to ensure that infants that fail hearing tests have a CMV test done within 21 days. Dr. Alissa just met with the health department a couple of days ago and it appears the language of the bill might penalize pediatricians if they miss doing the CMV test within the 21 days. The Health Department assured us that if a pediatrician is not aware of an infant with no referral, there is no penalty to the pediatrician.

There are other bills about newborns, mental health and the child's employment. FCAAP is focusing on the latest one, child's employment. There is a new way of reporting the newborn screen and sickle cell screen to the parents. The health department will report the results to the parents. FCAAP wants to ensure that the burden of reporting s not going to fall on the pediatricians but on the health department. Our lobbyists are working really hard on all of this.

AAP Report: Dr. Madeline Joseph provided an update. There's a lot going on at the AAP. For the next call she will send the report ahead of the next call on May 29 so it can be reviewed by participants. She shared information on the National Center of Excellence on Social Media and Youth Mental Health, which will serve as a centralized, trusted source for evidence-based education and technical assistance to support the mental health of children and adolescents as they navigate social media. There's a lot of resources for families and for clinicians and there's a monthly newsletter. This is so timely with the impact of social media we're seeing on the mental health of our youth.

Dr. Joseph also shared that the Florida AAP chapter have received recently, with four others other chapters, (Hawaii, Montana, Pennsylvania, Tennessee) the healthy mental and emotional development competitive grant from the AAP to target decreasing youth access to lethal means. Hopefully these efforts will help decrease suicide rates for pediatric patients.

Dr. Zenni asked about a state bill that would ban social media for children under 16. She hadn't heard much about it and was wondering if the Chapter had taken a public stance. Dr. Alissa said she was pretty sure that the Chapter is not commenting but thought the bill would pass. He feels the State is working too fast on legislation but that the legislation is good and that's why it's not being focused on. Dr. Rathore added that most probably know this, but for the rest of the group, the Chapter tracks many bills, some bills we support, some bills we oppose. We use our political capital to oppose the bad bills for children, physicians, and pediatricians, and support the ones favorable to our members. We also support other organizations in hopes of helping their position. It can get complicated, depending on many how many "bad bills" are in the literature that day. Dr. Alissa added that some bills, that we know are going to pass, that we are against, we try to tweak and amend the language so we can get as much as we can for the benefit of the children and the pediatrician.

WCH Update: Dr. Toney provided an update.

- New medical campus being planned and worked on in Nassau County at FL 200 and I-95, that will have an ER Imaging center and office space. Wolfson will have a presence there with a free-standing ED.
- Second new campus at 95 & State Road 16 at the Outlets. It will have an ER and imaging center with potential growth to include office space for professionals and procedural. Both are well planned and will have the Wolfson ED label with pediatric coverage in some capacity.
- Ed Hubel, who has served as interim president of Baptist Clay, has been formally named as that president. He's transitioning from Baptist Nassau to Baptist Clay. Matt Zuino will cover as interim president at Nassau.
- Two VPMA positions are being recruited. One will have a combined position with South and Clay and the other with Nassau and Beaches. Currently, Dr. Toney is at Wolfson and Ted Glasser is at the downtown JAX campus.
- From a more local standpoint, our physician partner leaders discussed the recruitment and departures of their providers.
- Nursing - Robyn Fiedler, who has served as Director of Nursing for the Med Surg units for years has become a new grandmom, relocating to Tampa. Interviews for her position are being conducted from a campus wide standpoint.
- We had an analysis from the consulting company regarding expected growth needs. Besides organic growth they took into account technology, acuity, neonatal behavioral health, as well as other inpatient needs.

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- Wolfson 3, the old PICU, is being redesigned as a 20-bed inpatient child and adolescent unit with all private rooms. A soft opening with tours will be February 9th with patient placement on February 12. All are invited to the tours. This will increase our capacity to 34 inpatient, acute crisis, mental health beds. It's going to be a feather in northeast Florida for the ability to provide care to the growing mental health needs of our community.
- Second expansion in the Borowy ICU tower. It currently has 75 NICU beds, 26 PICU beds, and 26 CVICU beds. We're going to change the CVICU to 14 beds and the back half of that unit on the 7th floor will be redesigned to be an extension of the NICU. That will increase NICU capacity from 75 to 87, which by projections should provide the needs for the community as well as the other NICUs that Baptist has (14 beds at South - 10 at Clay including other health system NICUs in the community).
- **Our five-year strategic plan** is being finished. Several work groups are contributing to the development of the plan. Many of the people on this call have participated. We hope to have things finalized by the end of the first quarter, beginning of the second quarter of 2024 and we should be able to report out of the next meeting with a high-level overview of what that plan will look like.

Dr. Rathore asked Dr. Toney for an update regarding the new Jacksonville University/LECOM campus and BMC/WCH involvement. Dr. Toney reported that LECOM partnered with JU to develop a 4-year medical school in Jacksonville. JU will be LECOM's academic partner. LECOM has partnered with Baptist to be the "Primary" clinical provider for the student rotations. Danny Pulido is the LECOM Associate Dean for Student Affairs. He reached out looking for interest and capacity at Baptist Health, either doctors or partnered doctors, to assess their willingness and desire to be a preceptor for LECOM students from a pediatric side for third-year medical students. According to their **rules**, all of it can be outpatient. He has fulfilled the need of the first of the third-year clerkships on an outpatient basis. From an inpatient standpoint Dr. Toney has been in communication with Dr. Genuardi at University of Florida to see what restrictions on capacity would there be if they wanted to do part of their 3rd-year clerkship or an elective in inpatient medicine. Dr. Toney asked those on the call if there is any interest from any provider to be a preceptor for LECOM student on an elective basis? It will be about three more years before the new school opens, then two years after that before the first local class of third-years would be in our community. He noted that LECOM student have received training for years at BMC, others have done sub-internships or subspecialty electives on our campus. Their students are not new to us, but their number will increase and LECOM will have more local presence. Dr. Bedard asked if LECOM had reached out to community pediatricians. Dr. Bedard stated that his practice takes nurse practitioner (NP) students and that there's a backlog of NP students from an outpatient standpoint. He wondered with the backlog if they would be able to find enough. Dr. Toney said that Danny Pulido has found placement for all of the third-year students for their clerkship. Dr. Toney mentioned that an email went out from BMC discussing all of this and seeing if community practices might be interested in participating.

Dr. Sandler acknowledged the hard work by the WCH leadership team and other regarding their work so far on the strategic planning initiative.

University of Florida: Dr. Hudak was unavailable for today's call but Drs. Rathore and Zenni reminded all that Dr. Hudak will be stepping down from his chair position effective June 30 after 12 years in the role. The College of Medicine has hired a search firm, Spencer Stewart to conduct an aggressive national search hoping to have his successor in place by July 1. Dr. Hudak will stay on as faculty but decrease his time.

Nemours Children's Health (NCH) Update: Dr. Sandler reported that the biggest issue impacting everyone is access and Nemours is really working quite diligently on that. There are a number of new hires. GI and Pulmonology have significantly improved access; Endocrine is continuing the work to improve the ability to get patients in the door.

- We also, if we haven't announced it previously, Mark is in his new role as WCH CMO.
- Suzanne Bilyeu has taken on the lead as the division chief for the hospitalist service.
- There are about 3 different applicants coming this week for various divisions and for next week.

Dr. Amanda Lochrie and her team in Psychology have started their Path program, which is telemedicine health and it's been very successful in terms of them getting almost double the numbers of referrals that they had anticipated. This is just for short term, three sessions, and then they refer either internal or external. It's amazing for our community that they have been able to find appropriate resources for all those patients and to get a follow up. There are some hidden gems out there being uncovered, so that's going to be good for everyone.

Overall, staff are really knocking it out of the park as far as the number of patients they're getting in and out. The census has continued to climb. It's been pretty busy and we hope you're starting to see improvements with the access issue. We have a number of other initiatives to try and help in this area.

St. Vincent's Family Medicine Residency Program Update: Dr. Kellogg shared that the St. Vincent's Family Medicine Residency Program has been approved for 12 residents. They currently have 10 per class so a total of 30. They currently work 5-week blocks but will go to four-week blocks and most of the rotations will stay the same. They'll be accepting and filling 12 spots for this upcoming academic year and then ultimately there will be 36.

Secretary –Treasurer's Report: Dr. Reddy reported that memberships are trickling in, new members and renewals. We are on a mission to reach out to former members with Donna's help. She will be reaching out to see if there's interest in renewing and reaching out to new pediatricians in the community that may not know about the Society to sign up. That's on the docket for this year as well as our two events coming up. There's one on February 21st, it's an educational dinner to be held at Maggiano's. And of course, the Awards Dinner, which we've already blocked on June 14th at One Ocean. We will also reconvene the Advisory Committee to get that up and running. We are looking for funding sources so that we can continue to have these events as we bring energy back into this organization and get back to meeting our goals.

Dr. Kellogg expressed her thanks to Drs. Reddy and Bedard and all the work they've put in, helping to revamp and revitalize NEFPS. She added there'll be a letter coming out from her and the Society outlining what we're looking forward to this year. It contains some NEFPS history. We also ask in that letter for someone who's interested in being Secretary-Treasurer as we go into the next term.

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There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at about 8:45am. The next meeting of the Northeast Florida Pediatric Society will take place on Wednesday, May 29, 2024 at 8:44am via Teams.

Approved by:

Julie Kellogg, MD
NEFPS President