



## Racial Inequalities and Healthcare Disparities: Spotlight on the Family

By Nanfi N. Lubogo

You cannot talk about health disparities and inequalities in healthcare without talking about and addressing racial and social injustice. The very inequalities that we know exist in healthcare today were rooted hundreds of years ago due systemic racism against African American and Native American communities.

Over 150 years later, communities of color still have to deal with structural racial practices across the U.S., in neighborhoods where air quality is poor, prevalence of food deserts where access to fresh fruits and vegetables are scarce but fast food value meals are plentiful and with more liquor stores than quality healthcare providers. According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Non-Hispanic Blacks bear a disproportionate burden of preventable disease, injury, death and disability leading to higher cases of diabetes, high blood pressure, obesity and heart disease. In children; asthma, behavioral and neurological conditions from environmental exposures to lead and dirty water. These health issues are contributing factors to the poor health outcomes in black people who live in what we now refer to as underserved/underrepresented or marginalized communities. Other socio-economic factors such as education, employment and income also contribute to racial health disparities further complicated when you add a global pandemic such as COVID-19, an economic downturn and the current civil unrest for social justice that has crippled our nation.

As a black parent and family leader that runs a parent support organization for families and children and youth with special healthcare needs, I have not only heard so many horrific stories of racism, inequality and injustice but dealt with them myself. Stories of a black mom of a child with sickle cell who goes into crisis and shows up at the Emergency Department only to be accused of seeking narcotics. A family of a young man diagnosed with autism who needs emergency assistance but is afraid to call 911 for fear of an escalation leading to arrest or even worse, shot and killed. Or stories like mine (and many others) where mothers of color are dismissed or even ignored by healthcare providers for being too outspoken, asking too many questions or simply put – seen as the stereotypical angry black woman- when advocating for my child.

I was privileged to be able to act as the advocate for my daughter with special healthcare needs when she was just 2-years old. I became a sponge for information to help my daughter. Attending every meeting, doctor’s appointment, and training about her diagnosis.

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My business was and is to help my daughter. I was always among a small group of parents and very quickly realized I was often the only parent or sole person of color. It was a lonely place. It almost felt like I was the “token” or there to “check a box.” I knew then that my duty is to speak for those who are not able and bring their experiences to the table where decisions are made. To that end, I have spent the better part of 20-years fighting for my child and other children and youth with special health care needs. I use my voice, experience, and influence to ensure the needs of people of color are addressed and that their voices are represented at the table from decision making all the way through to implementation.

Representation matters. We are not here to fulfill the status quo or to check a box. We are here to ensure structural change happens. Family engagement matters, but only if it is meaningful. People from marginalized communities bring important life experience to the table and given the chance can be powerful and effective partners in dismantling racism, bias, and health disparities. As is said by disability advocates, “Nothing about us, without us!”



**NANFI N. LUBOGO**

*Nanfi N. Lubogo is from Cromwell, CT and serves as the Co-Executive Director for PATH Parent to Parent/Family Voices of CT (PATH/FVCT), a statewide parent support network for families of children and youth with special health care needs/disabilities. She serves on various committees, councils, and boards both in CT and nationally. Her current appointments include the CT Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) Advisory Committee & Family Advisory Network. She represents Consumers on the National EMS Advisory Council (NEMSAC) and is the Vice President of National Family Voices Board of Directors. Mrs. Lubogo is a Maternal and Child Health/Public Health Leadership Fellow (MCH PHLI) and Partners in Policy Making Graduate.*

## EIIC Strengthens Our Commitment to Social Justice, Equity and Equality

The mission of the Emergency Medical Service for Children, Innovation and Improvement Center (EIIC) is to reduce child and youth mortality and morbidity resulting from severe illness or injury in ALL children. We recognize that advocating for social justice, equity and equality is essential for improving quality and safety for all children .

Each month, we will devote a section of this newsletter to this topic that will highlight diverse voices from our stakeholders and include resources from our partners and collaborating national organizations.

### **Racial Health Disparities: How COVID-19 Magnified a Public Health Emergency – June 24, 2020 (15 min)**

<https://www.aamc.org/news-insights/podcast-racial-health-disparities-how-covid-19-magnified-public-health-emergency>

### **Helping Your Child Cope with Media Coverage of Community Racial Trauma: Tips for Parents**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0Qtn2ZF6ZM&feature=youtu.be>

### **Talking to Young Children About Race and Racism**

<https://www.pbs.org/parents/talking-about-racism>

### **AACAP Racism Resource Library** Anti-racism resources for parents, patients, and clinicians.

[https://www.aacap.org/AACAP/Families\\_and\\_Youth/Resource\\_Libraries/Racism\\_Resource\\_Library.aspx](https://www.aacap.org/AACAP/Families_and_Youth/Resource_Libraries/Racism_Resource_Library.aspx)

### **AACAP Tips to Improve Care with LGBTQ Youth During the Pandemic and Beyond**

[https://www.aacap.org/App\\_Themes/AACAP/Docs/member\\_resources/SOGLIIC/Tips-to-Improve-Care-with-LGBTQ-Youth-During-the-Pandemic-and-Beyond.pdf](https://www.aacap.org/App_Themes/AACAP/Docs/member_resources/SOGLIIC/Tips-to-Improve-Care-with-LGBTQ-Youth-During-the-Pandemic-and-Beyond.pdf)

### **AACAP Virtual Forum: Healthcare Disparities through the Lens of Diversity During the COVID-19 Pandemic**

[https://www.aacap.org/virtual\\_forum](https://www.aacap.org/virtual_forum)

Save the Dates! Bookmark and visit the EIIC [Events page](#) for a list of upcoming events and activities pertinent to the EMSC community.

### EMSC Town Halls Occur Quarterly: Block your calendar now!

EMSC Town Hall calls are held every three months from 3:00 pm to 4:30pm eastern time on the second Wednesday of the month. The next call is on November 11, 2020. Join here: [https://hrsa.connectsolutions.com/emsc\\_town\\_hall/](https://hrsa.connectsolutions.com/emsc_town_hall/)

*Please check with all these organizations before making any travel plans. Given the current situation with COVID-19, it is likely many of the meetings will be postponed, cancelled or delivered alternatively.*

- **Virtual Symposium to Advance the Response to COVID-19** On Thursday, September 17, 2020, the U.S Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office of Minority Health (OMH) is hosting a [virtual symposium](#) to highlight state, Tribal, territorial and community-based efforts to address COVID-19 among racial and ethnic minority populations. The Advancing the Response to COVID-19: Sharing Promising Programs and Practices for Racial and Ethnic Minority Communities virtual symposium will feature presentations and strategies developed for public health leaders and community organizations confronting the pandemic. Learn more about this event and register [here](#).
- **ENA Annual Meeting** ENA recently released the schedule-at-a-glance for EN20X – A Virtual Xperience September 9-11. Attendees will earn more than 57 CNE hours through general sessions, learning hours, fast tracks and more. Register [here](#).
- **NEMSIS Boot Camp Announced** The NEMSIS team invites State Data Managers and state officials who are responsible for the collection, maintenance, and distribution of EMS data at the state level to attend the online NEMSIS Boot Camp August 25, 2020 from 9 am – 12 pm (MDT)! Hands-on instruction and a wide array of topics will be covered. Limited space is available, and registration is required! Register online at the following [link](#). For technical assistance, please contact [Chris Hoffman](#).
- **COVID-19: What's Next, Preparing for the Second Wave** As the COVID-19 pandemic evolves, experts predict a second wave of infection. Ensure that you are equipped with the latest information and clinical knowledge as the disease continues to spread. The Society of Critical Care Medicine (SCCM), along with sponsoring societies, invites you to register for the upcoming online conference, COVID-19: What's Next, Preparing for the Second Wave. Register [here](#).

#### NEDARC: TechTalk Series

NEDARC will host a two-part TechTalk series for EMSC managers in August and September 2020. We will demonstrate how to create engaging and dynamic reports using Microsoft Sway. Invitations to the series have been sent and recordings will be posted on our website at [www.nedarc.org](http://www.nedarc.org).

#### NEDARC: 2020 National Report to EMS

NEDARC sent a 2020 National Report to EMS agencies across the county regarding the results of pediatric emergency care coordination and skill checking on pediatric equipment. This report is available on the NEDARC website at <https://nedarc.org/performanceMeasures/2020Results.html#Top>

**HRSA awarded over \$101 million** to combat substance use disorders (SUD) and opioid use disorders (OUD). The awards [support 116 organizations in 42 states](#) and the District of Columbia, some targeting high-risk rural communities.

**HRSA awarded more than \$21 million** to support health centers' COVID-19 response efforts. The majority of this investment—\$17 million—supports 78 Health Center Program look-alikes with funding to [expand capacity for COVID-19 testing](#).

The remaining \$4.5 million was award to Health Center Controlled Networks (HCCNs). HCCNs support health centers to improve quality of care and patient safety by using health information technology to reduce costs and improve care coordination during COVID-19.



The EIIC is offering a limited number of free seats on a first come, first serve basis for the IHI Open School Online Courses. All courses must be completed by Sept 1<sup>st</sup>. Email Cassidy Penn ([Cassidy.penn@texaschildrens.org](mailto:Cassidy.penn@texaschildrens.org)) for more details.

## SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT – NEW TELEHEALTH QUALITY COLLABORATIVE



The EMS for Children Innovation and Improvement Center is excited to announce an upcoming HRSA-EMSC sponsored Telehealth Quality Collaborative to launch in January 2021 and continue through June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021. The goal of this collaborative is to:

- 1) Evaluate the impact of current and future public health crises on children with special healthcare needs and behavioral health emergencies,
- 2) Determine the capacity for telehealth use in these populations to fill current gaps in the emergency care access, and
- 3) Support initial implementation efforts with an added emphasis on rural, territorial, and tribal communities.

Participating states will be eligible for additional funding to support implementation efforts. Please mark your calendars for an introductory, one-hour webinar on this exciting initiative: **August 25, 2020 1:00 PT/3:00 CST/4:00 EST or August 31, 2020 1:00 PT/ 3:00 CST/4:00 EST.** Information on the Request for Applications will be coming soon.

## Help Improve Care for Children During Disasters and Join the American Academy of Pediatric Council on Children and Disasters as an Affiliate Member

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) aims for equitable disaster planning and management for infants, children, adolescents, and young adults during the course of all disaster phases, such as preparedness, response, mitigation, and recovery through resources and training materials shared on its AAP [Children and Disasters website](#) and through activities of its [Council on Children and Disasters](#) (COCD).

As an Emergency Medical Services for Children state partnership grantee or stakeholder, you are eligible to join the AAP as an affiliate member of the council or COCD. See details on [member benefits](#) and why you should join. This page on [membership criteria](#) includes a link at the bottom where you can create an AAP login and start the membership process. If you have questions about membership in general e-mail: [membership@aap.org](mailto:membership@aap.org).

## AAP Get Out the Vote Campaign: Vote for Kids

Election Day 2020 is Tuesday, November 3. The American Academy of Pediatrics is leading a robust Get Out the Vote campaign focused on the connection between health equity and voting. This election, we encourage pediatricians and those who care about children to vote like children's futures depend on it. Multiple resources that are available to educate yourself, patients, families, and others can be found [here](#).

**VOTE**kids  
THEIR FUTURE DEPENDS ON IT.

## Need Support? Join Nurses Together



Health care providers have been faced with many challenges this year that have been physically and mentally demanding. Your well-being is important. Join your colleagues to seek support and connect with your peers through Nurses Together: Connecting Through Conversations.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/org/nursestogether#/>

# Welcome to the new Knowledge Management (KM) Domain at the EIIC: Building an exciting new resource to better serve you and the community

By Marc Auerbach, MD Corrie Chumpitazi, MD and Mohsen Saidinejad, MD

**KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT DOMAIN**



**SYNTHESIS**  
of existing evidence into best practices that will inform the




Baylor Chumpitazi

**CREATION**  
of clinical and educational tools that will lead to




Lundquist Saidinejad

**DISSEMINATION**  
to all EMSC personas free of charge that aim to




Yale Auerbach

**IMPROVE THE OUTCOMES FOR CHILDREN IN EMERGENT AND URGENT CARE SETTINGS**

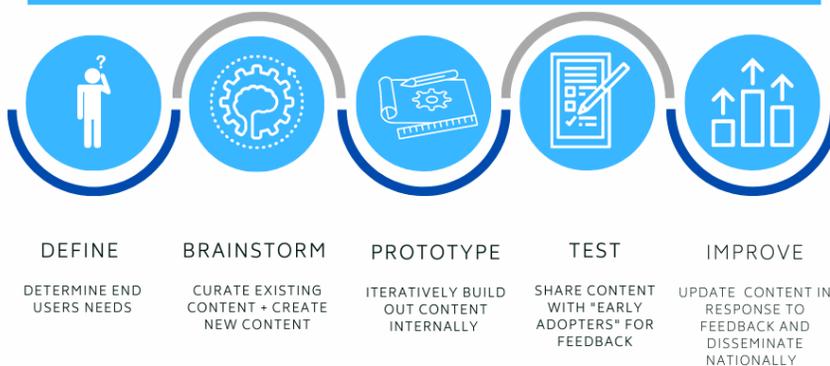
With this new HRSA EMSC grant cycle which began July 1, 2020, a trio of pediatric emergency medicine physicians from 3 national centers (California, Texas, and Connecticut) join Kate Remick and Charles Macias to complete the Executive Core of the EIIC. Joining them are Corrie Chumpitazi (Baylor College of Medicine/Texas Children’s Hospital – Texas), Mohsen Saidinejad (The Lundquist Institute for Biomedical Innovation at Harbor UCLA – California), and Marc Auerbach (Yale University School of Medicine – Connecticut).

This team will be leading a newly formed Knowledge Management (KM) domain. The KM team has already been hard at work deliver knowledge and evidence based science in a variety of formats (webinars, podcasts, videos, learning modules, simulation cases, infographics, etc.) and to create a dynamic and comprehensive central home for knowledge synthesis, content creation and curation, and content dissemination, which will be hosted on the EIIC website: <https://emscimprovement.center>.

The three centers each have a specific focus area (Figure at left) and will work collaboratively to deliver the latest knowledge in diverse formats to match each EMSC target-audience’s needs: 1) scientific community (clinicians and researchers), 2) EMSC stakeholders, 3) advocates, and 4) the public.

The KM domain team has already been hard at work and is fortunate to have this opportunity to integrate the existing EIIC dissemination committee membership and workstreams into these expanded efforts. The first KM domain work-product focuses on status epilepticus. The group “hit the ground running” July 1 and has completed a needs assessment of selected target-audiences that has informed ideas through brainstorming and led to the development of content/tools that are ready for testing and feedback (Figure below).

## Knowledge Management Content Development Process



Example of work already completed or in progress for status epilepticus include:

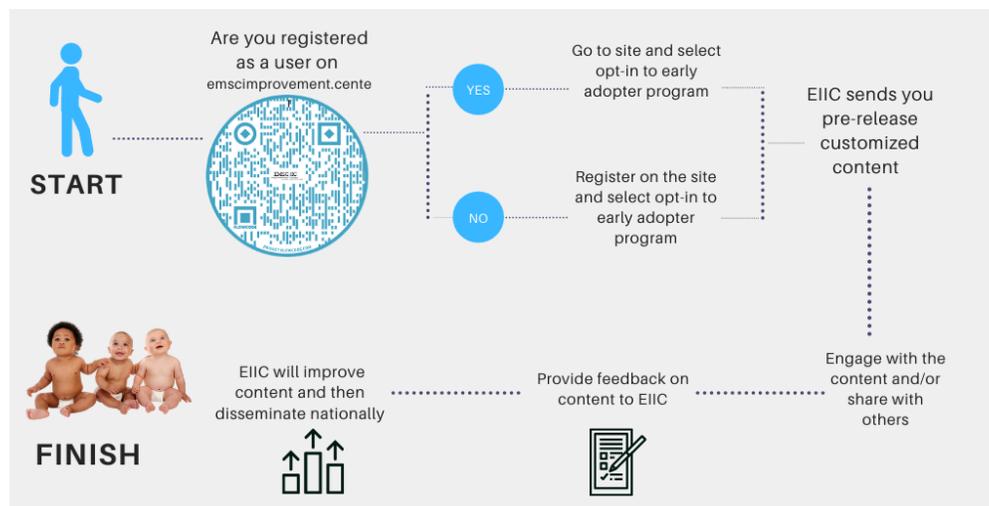
1. **Scientific community:** nursing simulation video (*pending completion*), hospital-based physician didactic (*completed*), EMS podcasts (*completed*)
2. Public- parent podcast (*completed*)
3. Advocates- (inplanning – format to be determined)
4. EMSC stakeholders- (in planning – format to be determined)

Our goal at the KM domain is to continue to evolve and improve to better serve your needs. We aim to involve active engagement of individuals from each target-audience and **WE NEED YOU!**

### Announcing the EIIK KM Early Adopter Program: Starting September 1<sup>st</sup>.

We are looking for early adopters to provide feedback that will guide the KM work to improve content and inform the development of additional content before a broader national launch of the content. By registering as a user on <https://emscimprovement.center> “early adopters” will opt-in to receive early access to the content developed by the KM domain for their group and are asked to provide feedback. To this end, we have developed a personalized registration and login experience to keep you better informed of when new content becomes available. By registering on our website, you will receive early access to materials that have been developed for feedback, before broader launch. This will make you one of our partners in content evaluation before it becomes available publicly.

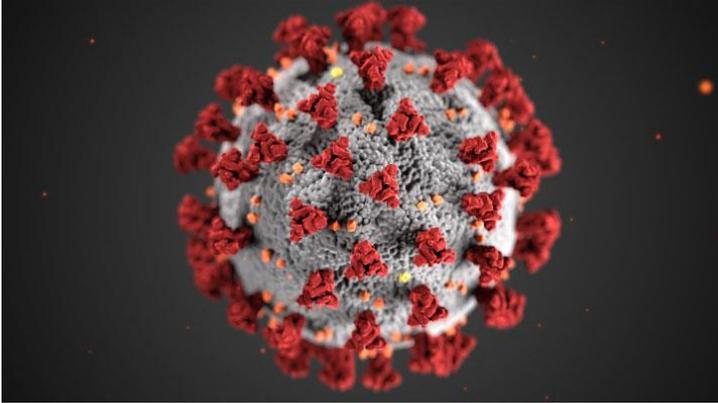
To register, select “Sign Up” in the top right box on <https://emscimprovement.center>, select the option “I would like to receive early access materials from the EIIK.” The time commitment for this work is approximately one-hour per month. By providing feedback, YOU will be helping us continually improve our resources and ultimately impact outcomes for children in urgent and emergent settings! Please share this opportunity with colleagues who might be willing to participate.



Note: if you already have a log-in you can still opt-in and add this feature by selecting your profile and adjusting your settings after logging in. Please reach out to Corrie Chumpitazi [cchumpi@texaschildrens.org](mailto:cchumpi@texaschildrens.org), Mohsen Saidinejad [moh@emedharbor.edu](mailto:moh@emedharbor.edu), and/or [marc.auerbach@yale.edu](mailto:marc.auerbach@yale.edu) with any questions or feedback on the KM domain!

## AAP Offers Interim Guidance on Multi-System Inflammatory Syndrome in Children

In July, the AAP published [interim clinical guidance on Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome](#) in Children (MIS-C). The recommendations offer pediatricians guidance on the signs, symptoms, diagnosis, and management of this rare but serious complication associated with COVID-19.



A [related article for parents](#) is available on HealthyChildren.org. Drs Ellie Hirshberg and Linda Siegel participated as SOCC representatives on the AAP work group that developed the guidance.

Visit the COVID-19 [web page on AAP.org](#) to find clinical guidance, practice management resources, including telehealth and coding, educational resources for clinicians and families, data reports, a discussion board, and details on AAP advocacy efforts. For questions or comments related to the pandemic, email [COVID-19@aap.org](mailto:COVID-19@aap.org).

## Stress and Cultivating Resilience

Adversity and stress are unavoidable aspects of serving as EMS clinicians, thanks to the challenges of everyday EMS work and the added difficulties brought on by extraordinary events, such as the COVID-19 pandemic. There are ways, though, to cultivate resilience, recognize and manage stress, and turn adversity into an opportunity for personal growth and becoming a better version of yourself.



Living Well and Leveraging Adversity and Stress Over the Long Haul : This special EMS Focus informative webinar addresses the challenges and stresses of EMS work and offers practical advice for cultivating resilience. Guest speakers include two EMS veterans, leaders and resilience experts that inform the audience about self-awareness, self-care, and specific actions, practices and wisdom for living well. The live webinar has been archived and is available at: <https://www.ems.gov/ems-focus.html>.

## FY 2020 Funding Opportunity Announcements

The Office of Minority Health (OMH) at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services administers grant programs to support projects that implement innovative models to improve minority health and reduce health disparities.

OMH has released the following funding opportunity announcement for which applications are now being accepted.

**Announcement Number: MP-CPI-20-001**

**Opportunity Title: State/Tribal/Territorial Partnership Initiative to Document and Sustain Disparity-Reducing Interventions**

[Learn more about this FOA and how to apply](#)

**Announcement Number: MP-CPI-20-002**

**Opportunity Title: Demonstration to Increase Hydroxyurea Prescribing for Children with Sickle Cell Disease Through Provider Incentives**

[Learn more about this FOA and how to apply.](#)



## Imaginary Barriers: How HIPAA Promotes Bidirectional Patient Data Exchange with Emergency Medical Services

EMS agencies nationwide still widely report that hospitals and other healthcare providers refuse to share patient information with them, citing Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) concerns. Misconceptions about HIPAA create artificial barriers to legitimate, approved bidirectional data exchange between EMS and other providers. As a result, many healthcare systems are missing a critical opportunity to improve patient outcomes and advance evidence-based practices in prehospital care.

To conclusively answer this question, the National Emergency Medical Services Information System (NEMSIS) Technical Assistance Center (TAC) collaborated with Page, Wolfberg & Wirth, LLC Law Firm to provide an expert legal opinion regarding the bidirectional sharing of patient information between Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and other healthcare providers.

Imaginary Barriers: How HIPAA Promotes Bidirectional Patient Data Exchange with Emergency Medical Services provides evidence, precedence, and legal opinion to help educate and encourage healthcare providers to appropriately share patient information with EMS. This paper addresses why HIPAA does not restrict, and how the law promotes, bidirectional sharing of patient information between hospitals and EMS agencies.

Click this [link](#) for the full text. For questions, please contact Dr. Clay Mann, [clay.mann@utah.edu](mailto:clay.mann@utah.edu), NEMSIS TAC or Eric Chaney, [eric.chaney@dot.gov](mailto:eric.chaney@dot.gov), NHTSA OEMS.

## University of Utah Burn Crisis Standards of Care App!

The University of Utah Health's TeleBurn program is pioneering the evaluation and treatment of burn injuries in the Mountain West and beyond. Providers can reduce costs, expand specialty burn care access to patients, and produce better outcomes for burn and frostbite survivors using the U of U Health Burn CSC app. Plus, it's FREE!! Available in the Apple Store now: <https://apps.apple.com/us/app/uofu-health-burn-csc/id1521337083>

## Rural Health Surge Readiness Web Portal

We know rural health care faces unique challenges in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. The Federal Healthcare Resilience Working Group (HRWG) has developed the [Rural Health Surge Readiness web portal](#), a collection of essential rural health care resources, tools, and training that health care workers and organizations – including EMS and 911, inpatient & hospital care, ambulatory care, and long-term care – can utilize to prepare for and respond to COVID-19. This one-stop shop for rural health care lets users quickly find the information they need to prepare for or respond to surge events, navigate financial challenges related to the pandemic, and can enhance their capacity and capability to provide lifesaving care to Americans who live in rural areas across the country. [Check out the portal](#). For more information, contact the [Federal Healthcare Resilience Working Group](#).



### Pediatric Seizure Management Publications:

[Multicenter Evaluation of Prehospital Seizure Management in Children](#)

[Paramedic-Identified Enablers of and Barriers to Seizure Management: A Multicenter, Qualitative Study](#)

### Pediatric Sepsis Publication:

[Pediatric Outcomes After Regulatory Mandates for Sepsis Care](#)

## Family Advisory Network (FAN) Mail!

**What is FAN Mail?** In each issue of the EMSC Pulse, you will find a “FAN Mail” section with information specific to our Family Advisory Network (FAN) members. Each issue will contain announcements, links to resources and highlights of the work being accomplished by the FAN members across the county.

## Pediatric Mental Health Crises During COVID-19

On August 19<sup>th</sup>, the EMSC FAN webinar, Impacts of COVID-19 and Social & Health Disparities on the Delivery of Pediatric Emergency and Mental Health Care, brought together three experts from emergency psychiatry who addressed the following topics. The webinar was recorded and will be posted to the EICC website’s webinar page here:

<https://emscimprovement.center/education-and-resources/webinars/>

1. Clinical presentations in Emergency Departments during COVID, expectations for the fall- [Dr. Vera Feuer](#)
2. Providing crisis care through telepsychiatry/virtual emergency visits – [Dr. Beau Carubia](#)
3. Health care disparities, racism and bias in emergency care delivery- [Dr. Annie Li](#)



## Welcome Dr. Sarah Ronis!

We are pleased to welcome Sarah Ronis, MD, MPH as the new EICC lead for the Family Advisory Network. Dr. Ronis is an assistant professor of pediatrics at Case Western Reserve School of Medicine and Director of the



Center for Child Health Policy and Research at University Hospital Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital in Cleveland, Ohio. In addition to providing clinical care, Dr. Ronis focuses on care coordination for children with special health care needs including optimizing the use of technologies to improve communication among caregivers and healthcare providers in community settings.

## The University of California San Francisco (UCSF) Collaborative to Advise on Re-Opening Education Safely (CARES)

UCSF Benioff Children's Hospitals is hosting a series of conversations on the re-opening of schools during the COVID-19 pandemic.

At the link below you will find recording from the past two sessions as well as a link to register for the third, titled "Supporting Children During Remote Learning with an Emphasis on Equity and Mental Health"

<https://coronavirus.ucsf.edu/cares>