ANNUAL REPORT

Tennessee Chapter

American Academy of Pediatrics Dedicated to the health of all children®



A letter from our leaders...

The beginning of a new year is often a time of reflection, resolution, recovery, and renewal. We have much to reflect on in our state and in medicine over the past year, including the official end of the public health emergency, the Covenant School shooting that changed our lives yet again, a seismic change in the landscape of RSV, and so much more. We may consider resolving to improve immunization rates in our state, continuing to advocate for the safety of our children in their schools and in their communities, and for the success and well-being of the future of our profession and practices. We still have a lot to recover from as burnout rates continue to increase, we are challenged with the ongoing mental health crisis in pediatrics and the challenges we face in ensuring our children are safe and our practices are healthy. But it is also a time for renewal, to work together in the coming year towards a common goal, our north star- our children.

While we may not always feel it in our day-to-day practice or when reading the news, we do have a lot to celebrate in Tennessee. We are extremely proud of being awarded the Outstanding Large Chapter Award by the AAP this last August. It speaks to the dedication and work of our board, staff, and all of our members. Our peers recognize the challenges we have faced in our state and how we have risen to the occasion. Congratulations to all of you and thank you for the support and energy that you have put into our mission to be the leading voice, advocate, and authority for children in our state. Your voices are being heard, from speaking out against gun violence, standing up for evidence-based care and the physician-patient relationship, and the importance of immunizations and the ability to provide those without bureaucratic barriers.

Our chapter continues to thrive from our advocacy work, our training, education, and QI programs, our conferences, and financially. In order to continue and sustain our work we need you. Membership will be a focus of our efforts this year. Please reach out to your partners, colleagues, and friends and tell them about the great work TNAAP is doing and encourage them to be a part of it. It takes all of us. Our voices are louder and more powerful when we speak together. Connect with your respective Fellow at Large and let them know what issues are important to you. Consider leadership opportunities or other ways to contribute.

We look forward to a bright 2024 as we are poised for another successful year. It has been a privilege and honor to lead TNAAP. I hope you will look back at what we've accomplished together with a renewed hope and the resolve to continue to advocate for all children as we make positive changes in Tennessee. We must take time to celebrate our wins and keep moving forward. Together.



Jason Yaun, MD, FAAP TNAAP President



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Ruth E. Allen TNAAP Executive Director

Our Mission

The Tennessee Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics is committed to being a leading voice, advocate and authority for the physical, mental, and social welfare of infants, children and adolescents, as well as the pediatricians who care for them.

Our Efforts

Advocacy continues to be reported as our number one member benefit.

TNAAP's 2023 advocacy efforts involved numerous matters of importance to children, families, and pediatricians at the state and federal level. TNAAP monitored hundreds of bills and was active in promoting vaccine confidence and protecting routine childhood immunizations, highlighting the importance of children's mental health, opposing NP/PA independent practice, promoting safety in youth sports, and expanding services to children enrolled in Tennessee Early Intervention System (TEIS). Prior to and following the tragic Covenant School shooting, TNAAP was active in promoting gun violence prevention and firearm safety measures. TNAAP organized a sign on letter demanding reform with over 3,500 signatures which was delivered to the Governor, the Lt. Governor and the Speaker of the House. TNAAP was vocal in sharing concerns about the TennCare redetermination process for TennCare enrollees and advocated at the national level for keeping children safe online.



State Legislative Advocacy



TNAAP monitored hundreds of bills and lobbied for and against numerous pieces of legislation.

The following list highlights some examples of legislation we actively lobbied on, some of which included providing legislative testimony at various committee hearings.

LEGISLATIVE AND BUDGET WINS

- There were many "wins" for children and pediatricians during the 2023 Tennessee General Assembly.
- Multiple anti-vaccine bills failed.
- The Safe Stars Act was expanded to include community-organized youth sports and private schools.
- A bill that requires local education agencies (LEAs) to provide 6 weeks of paid maternity leave for licensed employees also passed.
- Both the Safe Stars bill and the maternity leave bill passed with bi-partisan support.
- The physician-led, team-based medical care model in Tennessee was preserved as APRN and PA independent practice bills again failed to advance during this.

During the special session \$1.6M of recurring funds were approved for the gun safe locks program at Dept. of Safety and \$1.1M non-recurring funds were allotted to the Dept. of Safety for the purpose of creating and implementing a public safety campaign dedicated to safe firearm storage.



Following the horrific Covenant School shooting on March 27, 2023, much of our work turned towards gun violence prevention and mobilizing our members to speak out and demand common sense firearms legislation. This included a letter to the governor asking for action with over 3,500 signatures.

Adopt the practices of Be SMART



TNAAP hosted our Day on the Hill event March 8, 2023.

Over 40 members attended and 38 meetings with legislators were scheduled. Attendees began the day listening to remarks from Dr. Ralph Alvarado, TN Commissioner of Health.



Special thanks to TNAAP's Legislative Committee Chairs Dr. Hunter Butler, Dr. Dorothy Sinard and Dr. Barb Dentz as well as our lobbyists Melanie Bull and Jim Schmidt.

Advocacy for Children, Families, and Pediatricians

- Weekly Chapter Chats with the National AAP
- Regular e-blast updates to members
- Attended National AAP legislative conference and lobbied on Capitol Hill for legislation to keep children safe online (referred to as the Kids on Line Safety Act)
- Monitored and shared communications with members regarding the TennCare eligibility redetermination process
- Represented pediatricians at the TMA House of Delegates Meeting. Co-authored firearms safety resolution and spoke on firearm safety, immunizations, gender-affirming care
- Partnered with TMA to offer MATE Act training for pediatricians.
- Actively supported extension of services for children in TEIS to age 5
- Sponsored one resident and one early career physician to attend the national AAP advocacy conference.
- Signed on to a national letter promoting funding for gun violence prevention research.
- TNAAP kept members abreast of the introduction and implementation of administering Beyfortis for RSV prevention. Activities included dialogue with TennCare about coverage, distribution of administration guidelines, coding information and a planning check list, as well as conducting a topic specific free webinar.
- The Chapter communicated with members about a law changing parental approval requirements related to mature minor vaccine administration and voiced barriers associated with this change to legislators and policy-makers. We continue to work on resolving some of the difficulties with this and introduce legislation to ease this requirement.
- When TNAAP became aware of the discontinuation of Flovent and TennCare's plans to require prior authorization for the generic version, the chapter promptly communicated with TennCare about the barriers this would cause and convinced TennCare to drop the prior authorization requirements.

Tennessee Chapter

American Academy of Pediatrics Support Television of an analysis of the second second



TNAAP Highlighted in the Media

TNAAP @TNAAPChapter · Jan 13

TNAAP Members in the News: Dr. James Antoon speaking with The Tennessean about how physicians have dealt with a "tripledemic" of respiratory illness this winter.



tennessean.com

What to know about Southern tripledemic 2023: RSV, flu and COVID r... Flu activity remains high in the South, but it's an improvement over recent weeks. RSV cases are also dropping. But COVID cases are on ...



TNAAP @TNAAPChapter · Mar 1

TNAAP Members in the News: Dr. Stephen Patrick from the Vanderbilt Center for Child Health Policy spoke about the top issues facing the state's children today. tennessean.com/.../what-we-kn...



TNAAP @TNAAPChapter · Mar 3

TNAAP Members in the News: Dr. Quentin Humberd speaks about the dangers of this excessive #abortion ban.



tennessean.com

'Be careful what you wish for': Tennessee seeks to rationalize excess... We need common sense legislation that provides for appropriate exceptions to the current abortion ban, and supports the rights of ...

THE TENNESSEAN

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Childhood vaccines are our best shot to keeping kids healthy | Opinion

For some reasons that are not entirely clear, an increasing number of children are unvaccinated or undervaccinated, which leaves our most vulnerable patients open to what could be fatal infections.

Meghan Ghanayem, Cole Atkins, Rebecca England and Heeyun Kim Guest Columnists Published 12:00 p.m. CT Feb. 6, 2023

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TNAAP @TNAAPChapter · Feb 11

ICYMI: We are so proud of our TNAAP members in pediatrics residency across the state for writing this important op-ed about declining rates of childhood vaccinations.



tennessean.com

Childhood vaccines are our best shot to keeping kids healthy | Opini... An increasing number of children are unvaccinated or undervaccinated, which leaves most vulnerable patients open to ...



TNAAP @TNAAPChapter · Apr 5

TNAAP Members in the News: Board member and past president Dr. Anna Morad speaks with @VUMChealth news about the life-saving importance of safe sleep for infants. Do you know the ABC's of how a child needs to sleep?



news.vumc.org Infant sleep safety education vital to reduce deaths According to Tennessee's 2022 Child Fatality Annual Report, over the past five years, white infants accounted for most of the sleep-relate...

TNAAP Representation with AAP



AAP Leadership Conference August 2023 Ruth Allen, Executive Director TNAAP; Mark Del Monte, CEO/Executive Vice President AAP; Jason Yaun, MD, TNAAP President



AAP Leadership Conference August 2023 Jason Yaun, MD, TNAAP President; Ruth Allen, Executive Director TNAAP; Carlenda Smith, MD, TNAAP Vice President



AAP National Conference & Exhibition October 2023



We were honored to accept the 2022 Outstanding Large Chapter Award in August of 2023. Our leadership team accepted the award during the American Academy of Pediatrics Leadership Conference in Itasca, IL.

The American Academy of Pediatrics National Conference & Exhibition is truly an experience like nothing else. Given my career path as a physician advocate and public health researcher focused on reducing pediatric firearm injuries, it won't surprise folks that I dedicated my time to sessions on advocacy and firearm injury prevention. Our own TNAAP was highlighted during a session on gun safety advocacy where Dr. Yaun described the power of coalition building. One of the most impactful phrases I heard was to consider "What if instead of asking our children to be more resilient, we ask the world to be less traumatic?" As pediatricians, we play such a large role in helping our patients navigate traumas like witnessing community violence or being placed in foster care, often rooted in racist systems and structures. What would it look like for children to live in a world that prioritizes their safety and health? By sharing your voice, you are taking tangible steps to create a safer, healthier world for kids. Kelsey Gastineau, MD, MPH, FAAP



Dr. Gastineau was the recipient of the 2023 Early Career Physician sponsorship from the TNAAP Endowment Fund. Pictured with Dr. Yaun.

2023 AAP Advocacy Conference TNAAP sponsored attendance for one early career physician and one resident.

Energizing. Encouraging. Inspiring. Call to Action. These words are what come to mind first when thinking about the 2023 AAP Advocacy Conference held in Washington DC on March 26-28th. Our group of pediatrician advocates visited Capitol Hill to discuss two acts designed to help keep children safe online, the Kids Online Safety Act and the Children and Teens' Online Privacy Protection Act. During the conference, the state of Tennessee faced a tragic school shooting that forever changed the lives of many families and the Nashville community. After a weekend spent learning how to best advocate on behalf of children, this highlighted the urgency of collective action of pediatricians to advocate even more strongly for the health and wellbeing of all children. Child health and safety should be a priority for all policymakers as an important protection to ensure a bright future. After all, children will one day be both pediatricians and policymakers! -Kruti Bhavsar



This past March, I had the pleasure of attending the 2023 AAP Advocacy Conference in Washington, DC. As a third-year Internal Medicine-Pediatrics resident, I have seen firsthand the longitudinal impact of social determinants including food security, lethal means, and access to healthcare/mental health services, among others, on the well-being of my patients. The Tennessee delegation met with staffers on Capitol Hill from the offices of Senators Marsha Blackburn and Bill Hagerty and encouraged their continued support of the Kids Online Safety Act and the Children and Teen's Online Privacy Protection Act. Overall, this conference was a wonderful and empowering experience. Pediatricians are equipped with the knowledge and skills to positively influence public policy and are well-poised to advocate for children who are unable to yet advocate for themselves. -Marina Girgis

Payer Advocacy TNAAP's Pediatric Council

- Advised TennCare MCOs on accurate coding for COVID vaccine counseling 99401
- Continue to work with TennCare MCOs on SDOH pilot programs to improve data capturing
- Worked with National AAP to resolve improper claims processing by Cigna and Aetna for MMR and Varicella vaccines
- Worked with National AAP to halt Cigna Modifier 25 review
- Worked with BlueCare to get claims reprocessed for vaccine administration code denials
- Worked with TennCare to advocate for generic Flovent coverage
- Worked with TennCare MCOs to ensure codes and fees were loaded for new Beyfortus and COVID vaccine administration codes



Convincing payers to remove inappropriate edits and claims denials **Addressing** inappropriate prior authorization requirements **Advocating** for coverage of certain services and CPT codes **Halting** payer audits and recoupments

Members are encouraged to submit payer-related issues to janet.sutton@tnaap.org.

2023 Excellence in Pediatrics Awards



Pediatrician of the Year Dr. Timothy Fuller



Lifetime Achievement Award Dr. Kathy Edwards



Senior Pediatrician of the Year Dr. Joan White



Dr. Gail Beeman



Senior Pediatrician of the Year Early Career Physician of the Year Dr. Kelsey Gastineau



Friend of Children Award Dr. Heather Brandt



AAP Special Achievement Award Dr. Cassandra Brady



Award Recipients with Dr. Jason Yaun, Dr. Anna Morad, Dr. Carlenda Smith, and Ruth Allen, Executive Director of TNAAP

Continuing Education for the Whole Practice!



Our 2023 Virtual Practice Management Conference offered 75 participants continuing education on a variety of topics including:

- TennCare Enrollment Reverification The "Unwinding"
- Examining how unconscious bias and microaggressions impact our systems
- Recruit, Retain & Motivate the Best Employees
- NPs & PAs: Successful Supervision in Your Practice
- PCMH Panel Discussion
- Vaccine Confidence



2023 TSPC conference highlights:

- Engaging Topics and Speakers
- 90 Registrants
- Friday night trivia was a success!
- 20 Resident/Medical Student Posters
- 24 Exhibitors



Topics Covered:

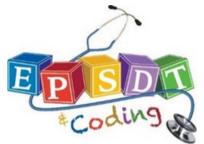
- Infectious Disease in a post-COVID world
- Adolescent Mental Health/ Psychopharmacology
- Fetal Alcohol/Drug Exposure
- State Health Round Table
- Pediatrician's role in dental care
- Gun Violence Prevention / BeSmart
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

TNAAP Training has Measurable Success!!



START Trainings

- 24 trainings; total of 610 participants
- Actively supported expansion of Part C services to age 5; Tennessee first state to adopt



EPSDT Trainings

- 81 practices 105 participants Office Support/Consults (audits, assistance with coding issues such as modifier usage, MCO problems, telehealth, EPSDT, etc.)
- 363 practices 709 attendees during offices trainings, regional events, Coding Update sessions, and Practice Managers' Conference
- 229 Views of EPSDT and Coding Webinar

BeHiP Trainings

- 14 office based/resident/student trainings were conducted with 491 participants
- 11 BeHiP Learning Collaborative/ECHO sessions with 190 participants
- 400+ views of online CME modules
- 50 prescribing providers have been recruited for the Foster Care Medical Home Project

BeHIP/Tennessee Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Education and Support (TCAPES)

- 4 TCAPES Regional Trainings events (BeHiP training and promotion of TCAPES access line) with 45 participants
- 4 TCAPES ECHO sessions with 75 participants

IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM

Immunizations Program

- 374 participants in Immunization ECHO
- 153 participants in five staff trainings with 13 practices in QI program
- 5 have already improved immunization rates by 5%



- Practice Management Well Child Quality Program
- 454 participants in Quality Improvement & EPSDT trainings
- Participants included MDs, NP/PAs, and Practice Managers
- 180 participants received practice management coaching



Quality Improvement Trainings

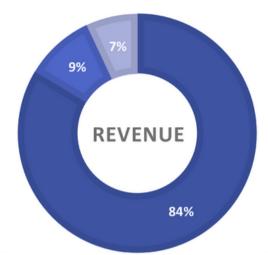
- 14 practices (171 attendees) participated in Practice QI trainings
- 18 practices representing 244 physicians participated in TNAAP QI projects
- 350 MOC Part IV points were awarded to physicians



Chapter Financial Results

REVENUE AND SUPPORT

Total Revenue	\$ 1,313,222	
Sponsorships & Other Income	91,427	7%
Membership Dues	123,442	9%
Grants	\$ 1,098,353	84%



EXPENSES

Change in Net Assets	\$ 181,172	
Total Expenses	\$ 1,132,050	
Fundraising	33,432	3%
Management & General	98,546	9%
Program Services	\$ 1,000,072	88%



STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Assets	\$ 1,000,140	
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Liabilities	\$ 202,309	
Net Assets	797,831	
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 1,000,140	
ENDOWMENT FUND		

Balance as of June 30, 2023 \$	86,693
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We are Grateful to our Donors!

Creating a Legacy for Future Pediatricians: TNAAP's Endowment Fund

This endowment continues to help fulfill TNAAP's mission by supporting TNAAP's long-term educational, advocacy and quality improvement programs. The fund was established in 2020 by the late Stuart T. Weinberg, MD. Contributions to the endowment also support the chapter over the long-term by increasing future annual distributions for tomorrow's pediatricians.

Annual distributions of the TNAAP endowment fund are used to support members in various ways. The first year we provided a media training series, the second year we sponsored a resident to attend the AAP National Conference and Exhibition. **The 2023 distribution of \$2,188 was used to sponsor an early career physician to attend the AAP National Conference and Exhibition (see Dr. Kelsey Gastineau's description of her experience attending on page 8 of this report!)**

Endowment Contributors to date

Ruth Allen Blake Bergeron, MD Suzanne Berman, MD* Becky Brumley Hunter Butler, MD* Miranda Butler, MD* Barbara Dentz, MD* John Hill, MD Gayatri Jaishankar, MD Elisha McCoy, MD Anna Morad, MD* Dorothy Sinard, MD* Carlenda Smith, MD Lindsey Wargo, MD Stuart Weinberg, MD* Toni Whitaker, MD Jason Yaun, MD TNAAP*

2023 General Fund Donors

John Hill, MD Carol McCoy Jason Yaun, MD

2023 Recipients In Memoria

Stuart Weinberg, MD Russell Wallace Chesney, MD Hershel P. "Pat" Wall, MD Joseph F. Lentz, MD Charles Van Snider, MD Iris Snider-Slowey MD

*Major Donor - \$1,000 or more

Tennessee Chapter



DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®

TENNESSEE CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS P.O. BOX 159201 NASHVILLE, TN 37215-9201

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Jason Yaun, MD - President Carlenda Smith, MD - Vice President Lindsey Wargo, MD - Secretary-Treasurer Anna Morad, MD - Nominating Chair/ Immediate Past President

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