AMSPDC Pediatrics Workforce Initiative (PWI)

Organizational Partner Update | October 2026

Co-Leads: Laura Degnon, CAE and Bob Vinci, MD

Project Director: Melissa Gillooly, MPP

Pillar Leaders: Becky Blankenburg, MD, MPH; Mary Leonard, MD, MSCE; Sallie Permar, MD, PhD; Ann Reed, MD

The AMSPDC Pediatrics Workforce Initiative (PWI) brings together leaders from across academic pediatrics and national partner organizations to develop collaborative solutions for the pediatric workforce. In Q3, PWI elevated pediatric workforce priorities across national forums – from Capitol Hill and the Joint Commission to medical education and partner meetings – while continuing to expand and share practical resources through the PWI Resource Hub. The quarter also moved Phase 3 planning forward, with emerging priorities focused on Early Pathways & Learner Influence and Pediatric Workforce Compensation & Financial Sustainability.

Thank you for your continued partnership in advancing this work. We encourage you to share this update within your organizations and to continue exchanging information with AMSPDC so we can better coordinate efforts, leverage complementary work, and advance our shared goals. Please also send us examples, testimonials, and local wins so we can continue to highlight what is working.

RECENTLY RELEASED RESOURCES

EDUCATION

Best Practice Guidelines for Pediatric Clerkships

The AMSPDC Pediatrics Workforce Initiative (PWI) Clerkship Exposure Group has developed new Best Practice Guidelines for Pediatric Clerkships, offering consensus-based recommendations on clerkship goals, structure and duration, learning environment, content and assessment, and pediatric career exploration. The guidelines were developed by pediatric clerkship educators from ten institutions and informed by COMSEP survey data, literature, stakeholder feedback, and student perspectives.

Access The Guidelines →

PARTNER ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITY

Please use and share! This resource is great for:

- Pediatric clerkship directors
- Undergraduate medical education leaders
- Curriculum leaders
- Faculty responsible for medical student education

The goal is to help departments use the guidance to strengthen pediatric clinical education and student exposure to the field.

> *"Strong clerkship experiences matter not only for preparing future physicians to care for children, but also for helping students see the breadth and possibility of a career in pediatrics. These Best Practice Guidelines provide a practical, evidence-informed framework that departments can use to examine and strengthen the student experience. I encourage chairs to share them with their education leaders and consider where their own clerkships can create more meaningful exposure, stronger mentorship, and greater opportunities for students to explore pediatrics."*
>
> **Kimberly Boland, MD, FAAP**
> Chair of Pediatrics, University of Louisville School of Medicine
> Chair, AMSPDC Education Committee

PRACTICE COLLABORATION

New Videos on the Novel Models Resource Hub

Two new videos have been added to the AMSPDC PWI Novel Models Resource Hub, expanding the collection of innovative approaches to improving pediatric specialty access and workforce capacity.

INDIANA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Early Autism Evaluation (EAE) Hub System

Equips primary care clinicians to conduct autism diagnostic evaluations closer to home.

DUKE UNIVERSITY

Children's Specialty Services of Fayetteville

An APP-led model that extends pediatric cardiology care to communities across southeastern North Carolina.

These programs join three previously featured models on the PWI Resource Hub. Watch and share the videos with colleagues who may be interested in adapting similar approaches in their own settings. Leaders from each featured program have also offered to connect directly with individuals interested in learning more about their model, implementation experience, and potential for adaptation.

WORKGROUP RECOMMENDATIONS SUBMITTED TO AMSPDC LEADERSHIP

Novel Models of Care

The Novel Models of Care Workgroup submitted recommendations to AMSPDC leadership to expand the newly developed repository of innovative pediatric care models and promote broader adoption through education, peer learning, and scholarly dissemination. The recommendations emphasize leveraging existing expertise and partnerships to help departments learn from and adapt promising approaches to care delivery.

eConsults

Drawing on institutional surveys and interviews, the eConsult Workgroup submitted recommendations to AMSPDC leadership to support broader adoption and sustainability of pediatric eConsults. Priorities include exploring a partnership with AAMC Project CORE, facilitating pediatric-specific peer learning, and strengthening the evidence base to help departments overcome implementation barriers and improve access to subspecialty care.

The PWI Resource Hub is the central home for tools, webinars, videos, and other resources developed through the Pediatrics Workforce Initiative. Visit the Hub to explore available resources and share them with colleagues across the pediatric community.

Visit The Resource Hub →

PRESENTATIONS & TESTIMONIES

Congressional Children's Health Care Caucus Testimony

CAPITOL HILL · JULY 15, 2026



Leaders and experts in pediatric health care shared how workforce shortages are putting kids' access to care at risk.

> *"There aren't deserts just in rural communities for appropriate pediatric care. It occurs in inner cities as well... This workforce provides cutting-edge care that our pediatric patients in America deserve right now."*
>
> **Rep. John Joyce (R-Pa.)**

AMSPDC helped bring the pediatric workforce crisis to Capitol Hill on July 15, 2026, as a co-sponsor of the congressional briefing *"Kids' Care At Risk: The Pediatric Workforce Shortage,"* held with the Children's Hospital Association (CHA), the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), and the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners (NAPNAP) in conjunction with the bipartisan Congressional Children's Health Care Caucus. Representing the PWI, co-leader Bob Vinci, MD, joined Kristin Gigli, PhD, APRN, CPNP-AC (NAPNAP); Olivia Matthews, MEd, CCLS (Children's National Hospital); and Lee Beers, MD, FAAP (AAP), for a discussion moderated by Torey Mack, MD, CHA Chief Medical Officer. Dr. Vinci highlighted the growing access consequences of pediatric workforce shortages, including severe gaps across pediatric subspecialties, and underscored how inadequate reimbursement contributes to recruitment and retention challenges – reinforcing a central PWI priority to strengthen the financial and policy foundation needed to sustain the pediatric workforce and ensure access to care for children.

> *"The cuts to Medicaid that we're grappling with probably mean that we lose lives over the coming years unless we can fix that."*
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> **Rep. Kathy Castor (D-Fla.)**



PWI co-leader Bob Vinci, MD

Read CHA's Briefing Recap →

National Medical Association Annual Convention



Pictured (left to right): PWI Co-leader Bob Vinci, MD; AMSPDC President Leslie Walker, MD; and PWI Co-leader Laura Degnon, CAE.

AMSPDC President Leslie Walker, MD, and PWI Co-leaders Bob Vinci, MD, and Laura Degnon, CAE represented AMSPDC at the National Medical Association's 2026 Annual Convention. Their presentation highlighted the pediatric workforce crisis and the work of the Pediatrics Workforce Initiative (PWI), with particular attention to opportunities to strengthen and diversify the pediatric workforce. The session also created an opportunity for dialogue with members of the NMA Pediatric Section about shared priorities and future collaboration.

> *"Addressing the pediatric workforce challenge will require meaningful collaboration across organizations that bring different perspectives, relationships, and experiences to the table. The partnership between NMA and AMSPDC is an important opportunity to strengthen pathways into pediatrics, expand and diversify the pediatric workforce, and help ensure that every child has access to high quality care. Working together, we can build a workforce that not only better reflects the children and families we serve, but is also prepared to meet their evolving health needs."*
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> **Aisha Rollins, MD, FAAP**
> Pediatric Section Chair, National Medical Association

Medical Education

3RD ANNUAL PEDIATRIC MEDICAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE

At the 3rd Annual Pediatric Medical Education Conference, hosted by APPD in partnership with AMSPDC and other leading pediatric education organizations, PWI Co-Leaders Laura Degnon, CAE, Bob Vinci, MD and Project Director Melissa Gillooly, MPP presented an overview of the Initiative's progress and emerging direction. The presentation celebrated what the pediatric education community has accomplished together through PWI and spotlighted practical resources now available to educators, including learner guides and pre-clerkship and clerkship tools. The team highlighted the PWI Resource Hub as a central home for these and other workforce resources and invited educators to help disseminate promising approaches and identify opportunities for cross-organizational collaboration to support broader adoption and impact. The presentation also previewed the proposed Phase 3 focus on Early Pathways and Learner Influence and Compensation and Financial Sustainability.

View Slides

Joint Commission

UNIFY 2026 · SEPTEMBER 30, 2026

Bob Vinci, MD and Laura Degnon, CAE represented AMSPDC and the Pediatrics Workforce Initiative at The Joint Commission's UNIFY 2026 conference on September 30, 2026. Tina Cheng, MD, MPH also presented on advances in child health. The conference brings together healthcare leaders from across the country to explore emerging challenges and opportunities in quality, safety, access, workforce, and innovation. Marking the conference's 75th anniversary, UNIFY 2026 included a dedicated Children's Health Track for only the second year, presented in partnership with the Children's Hospital Association. Their presentation highlighted data on pediatric subspecialty workforce shortages, disparities in lifetime earnings, and the resulting impact on access to care, while also calling for more robust pediatric-focused metrics and dashboards within The Joint Commission.

> *"Having a dedicated Children's Health Track at a national forum like UNIFY is important because it brings pediatric issues into conversations that shape broader health system priorities. AMSPDC and the Pediatrics Workforce Initiative bring an important perspective to that dialogue by connecting workforce challenges directly to access, quality, and the ability of health systems to meet the needs of children and families. Engaging this broader audience creates opportunities to build awareness and influence leaders beyond the pediatric community."*
>
> **Tina Cheng, MD, MPH, FAAP**
> Chair of Pediatrics, University of Cincinnati College of Medicine
> President-Elect, AMSPDC

WEDNESDAY
DEC
16
2026

SAVE THE DATE · YOU'RE INVITED

2026 PWI Virtual Summit

4:00–6:00 PM ET | Virtual | Open to the entire pediatric community

Join us to celebrate the accomplishments and lessons from Phase 2 of the AMSPDC PWI and to hear the emerging priorities and the direction for the next phase of our work. This will be an opportunity to connect with pillar leaders and partners working across the Initiative to strengthen the pediatric workforce.

During this Summit we will focus on how to sustain the work of the past few years while working together to think creatively about the direction of the AMSPDC PWI.

Please register and share this invitation with colleagues and other leaders in the pediatric community who may be interested in joining.

Register Here →

RESEARCH, RESOURCES & COLLABORATION

New York Medicaid Advances Payment for Complex Longitudinal Pediatric Care

As highlighted in the Q2 report, insights emerging from the AMSPDC Pediatrics Workforce Initiative helped spark broader advocacy in New York around Medicaid payment for G2211. A new policy brief from the Cornell Health Policy Center, *New York Medicaid Coverage of Complex Longitudinal Pediatric Care: Code G2211*, examines New York's recent decision to become the first state to reimburse G2211 for pediatric care in Medicaid.

ⓘ What is G2211?

G2211 is an add-on code that provides additional reimbursement and relative value units (RVUs) for clinicians providing complex, longitudinal care. The policy recognizes the additional time, coordination, and clinical expertise involved in caring for children with complex and ongoing health needs.

Read the brief to learn more about New York's approach and how it may inform payment strategies in other states seeking to strengthen and sustain pediatric care.

Read The Policy Brief →

Relevant Research: Understanding Social Media Perceptions of Pediatrics

20,000+
REDDIT POSTS ANALYZED

A September 2026 *Journal of Pediatrics* article, "Let's Talk About Peds," analyzed more than 20,000 Reddit posts to examine how pediatrics is portrayed on social media and how these discussions may influence career decisions. The findings revealed predominantly negative perceptions related to compensation, training, and professional culture, highlighting the need to address systemic barriers while promoting a more accurate and positive narrative about pediatric careers.

PWI leadership met with the authors to explore how these findings could inform Phase 3 priorities, particularly understanding where early learners obtain information about pediatrics and identifying opportunities to engage in those spaces to help reshape perceptions of the field.

Looking Ahead: Phase 3

2027–2029

Throughout Q3, PWI leaders with input from partners have continued shaping the Initiative's 2027–2029 direction. Emerging priorities center on Early Pathways & Learner Influence and Pediatric Workforce Compensation & Financial Sustainability, with a more focused approach to organizing the work and coordinating efforts across partners and the pediatric community. Phase 3 will also build on PWI's role as a convener and connector by expanding the Workforce Resource Hub, convening education leaders and the broader workforce community, and amplifying promising evidence, tools, and solutions from across pediatrics.

EMERGING PRIORITY
Early Pathways & Learner Influence

EMERGING PRIORITY
Pediatric Workforce Compensation & Financial Sustainability

The emerging Phase 3 priorities and next steps will be shared at the December 16 PWI Virtual Summit.