



# 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

## Tennessee Chapter

INCORPORATED IN TENNESSEE

American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®



# 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.



# A letter from our leaders...

Our hearts go out to all the pediatricians, staff and children and families who lost loved ones this year or sustained losses through natural disasters. 2020 is a good year to have “in the rear-view mirror” but it is important to reflect on all we accomplished during an unprecedented time!

TNAAP successfully helped our members navigate providing care during a pandemic while continuing our existing training programs. Despite being transitioned to virtual platforms, our programs reached thousands of participants. We also maintained our presence at the legislature as they closed early and proceeded to launch two special sessions. Our members remained resilient as they dealt with unprecedented financial challenges, PPE shortages and new ways of delivering patient care.

TNAAP actively advocated to bring financial support to pediatricians at both the federal and state level. In addition to CARES Act Funding, Tennessee provided \$12.2 million in provider relief for Tennessee primary care providers during the pandemic.

Through our ongoing partnerships with AAP, TennCare and the TN Department of Health, we were able to quickly disseminate important COVID-related information and resources to members. We also created resources such as guidance on performing and coding telehealth visits, including well child checkups. Our annual conferences became virtual meetings and/or webinars focused on pertinent topics. The chapter also formed new topic-specific committees to address subjects to bring those with common interests together.

The financial condition of the chapter remains solid and in 2020 we reached our goal to have more than four months of operating capital in reserves. We also launched an endowment fund, which will offer annual distributions for tomorrow’s pediatricians, to help secure the chapter’s financial future.

In recognition of outstanding work and successes this past year, the chapter recently received a **2020 AAP Award of Chapter Excellence!** We are so thrilled to have our hard work acknowledged and want to thank each of you for your efforts in helping us achieve our goals.

2020 was a challenging year but our ability to be flexible and remain nimble allowed us to provide support to Tennessee pediatricians at a whole new level.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anna Morad".

Anna Morad, MD, FAAP  
TNAAP President



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ruth E. Allen".

Ruth E. Allen  
TNAAP Executive  
Director

# point of view **Advocacy** ['ædv support of an i the act of pleac endin

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

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During 2020 TNAAP advocated on behalf of children and pediatricians at the state and federal level. We worked with the Governor's office, TennCare and other policy-makers around COVID related policies ranging from Telehealth to virtual eligibility determination for children entering the early intervention system. During the legislative session we also monitored hundreds of bills and had successes despite the shortened season with limited access.



# Obtaining Financial Relief for Pediatricians



## Federal Relief

TNAAP and other state chapters worked with national AAP to support CAREs Act Funding for pediatricians who were eligible for the Provider Relief Fund. There were three phases of funding offered resulting in pediatricians being eligible to apply for up to 2% of the total patient care revenue from the most recent tax filing year. Additional funds were also made available through the paycheck protection program.

## State Level Funding

TNAAP Successfully lobbied the Governor's office and TennCare for funding totaling \$12.2 million in provider relief for Tennessee primary care providers during the pandemic; this combination of state and federal funding resulted in an average of roughly \$20,000 per private practice physician.

## EPSDT Visits Paid at Parity for Telehealth Visits

After meeting with TNAAP, TennCare agreed to direct the MCOs to pay for the full EPSDT visits via telehealth even when all components could not be completed. Tennessee was one of the first states to achieve this.

## TNAAP conducted a survey of TN pediatricians in the spring of 2020:

- More than 30% reported a revenue reduction of 25% – 50%
- More that 40% reported a revenue reduction of 50% – 75%



# Payer Advocacy

## *TNAAP's Pediatric Council*

Chapter leadership met regularly with payers to represent TN pediatricians. Successes included:



**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

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Thank you all for your intense rapid response to our dilemma. If anyone ever doubts the real-time role TNAAP plays in the life of a small town practice, call me... In the midst of all the craziness surrounding everyone, we feel like you dropped everything to help us. Proud to be a member!

-- Joan White, MD, FAAP

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# State Legislative Advocacy



TNAAP monitored hundreds of bills and lobbied for and against numerous pieces of legislation. The following list highlights just some examples of legislation we actively lobbied, many of which included providing legislative testimony at various committee hearings.

## SUPPORTED

Supported the following legislation which passed:

- Telehealth bills including payment parity (during special session)
- Oversight and regulation of Cowshares for public health and safety
- Increase regulation of vaping and tobacco usage by minors

## OPPOSED

Opposed various bills that did not pass:

- Anti-vaccine legislation
- Nurse Independent Practice authority legislation
- Anti-transgender legislation



TNAAP Executive Director, Ruth Allen and a group of Tennessee pediatricians outside the Senate hearing rooms who gathered on the hill in March (prior to it closing for COVID-19) to speak out on various topics including anti-vaccination legislation.

# Advocacy for Children and Families



Sent letter to Governor Lee and participated in press conference re: **State-wide Mask Mandate**.

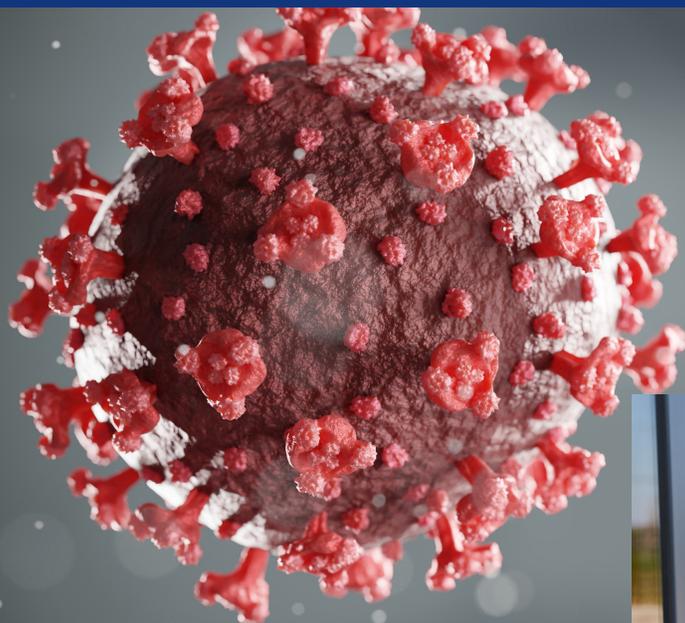
**Supported WIC extension** of waiver authority for remote access and sent a “call to action” to members to express their support of this.

Supported **“The Pandemic Child Hunger Prevention Act”** providing free school meals for all children during the 2020-2021 school year as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Supported the **Community Immunity During COVID-19 ACT**

Succeeded with advocacy efforts at the state and federal level in providing extra support for children and families such as free school lunches and remote access to WIC.

Assisted **TEIS** with implementing systems to perform **virtual Eligibility Determination** to facilitate entry into the system during the Pandemic by providing **hands on virtual trainings** of alternate screening tools.



## Supporting Pediatricians During the COVID-19 Pandemic

The pandemic brought many unexpected challenges and needs for the pediatric community. TNAAP quickly adapted and sought to be a reliable resource and support network for Pediatricians.



### Assistance with Telehealth

- Offered webinar featuring Sue Kressly, Chair of AAP PPAC offered best practices on completing EPSDT/Well Child visits via telehealth
- Compiled payer telehealth policies and created an associated coding reference guide

*Coffee Talk with the Experts!*

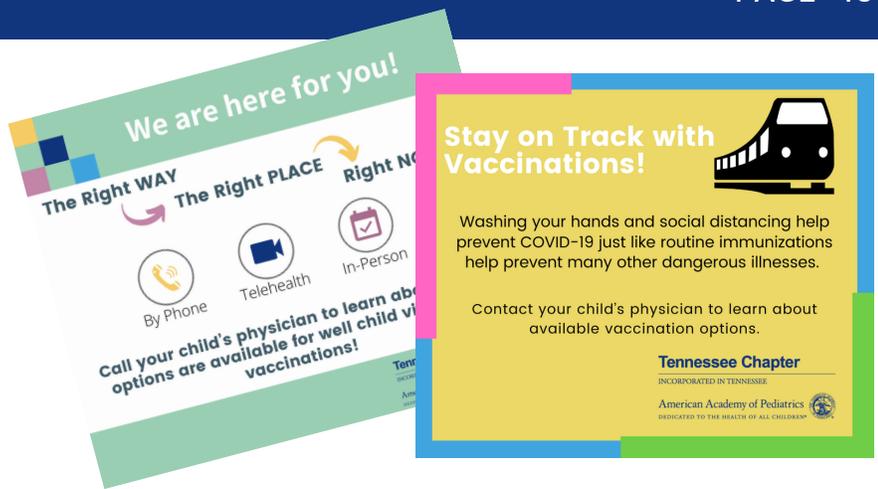


### Education and Discussion Webinars

TNAAP hosted topic specific webinars and “coffee talks” throughout the year to offer guidance and support to pediatricians and their practice. Topics included:

- State “shelter in place” guidance
- State “re-opening” activities
- COVID-19 in Children - 6 months into the Pandemic
- The Vaping Epidemic plus Vaping’s Impact on COVID-19 Risk
- Immunizations in 2020: COVID-19, Flu and the Antivax movement

***Registrations exceeded 250 for these webinars***



### "Back to the Office" Campaign

Joining forces with other chapters across the nation, TNAAP worked to create Tennessee specific resources to help promote children safely returning to pediatric providers for routine visits. This tool kit included: Posters, draft email and print communications and social media graphics/messaging.



### Real Time COVID-Related Communications

We distributed COVID specific “eblasts” covering topics such as:

- CARES Act funding
- Ordering PPE
- Telehealth videos, policies, and associated coding guidance
- New policies and resources from AAP, TennCare, Tennessee Department of Health, Payers and other state agencies

***During our 2020 COVID communication cycle we sent 45 eblasts with 30,570 opens and 14,650 clicks!***



## **Expanding Member Benefits with New Networking and Mentoring Opportunities!**

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The Chapter launched four new committees in 2020 offering increased engagement opportunities with peers on the following topics:

- Diversity, Inclusion and Equity
- Child Abuse and Neglect
- Environmental Health
- Immigrant Health

# Chapter Financial Results

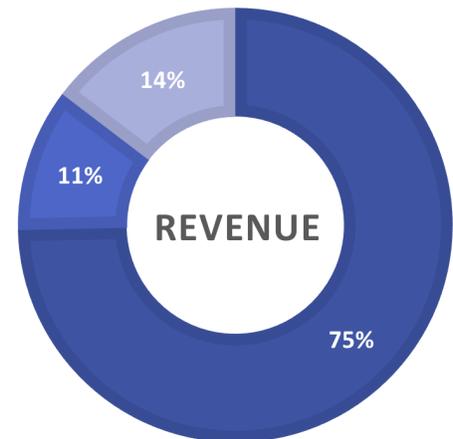
Year Ended June 30, 2020

The chapter finished the fiscal year ended 6/30/20 with a \$25,100 increase to net assets and a total reserves balance of \$393,259. The chapter continued providing important educational programs funded by almost \$650,000 in grants.

The chapter established an endowment fund to support future pediatricians that had a balance of more than \$21,000 at end of the 2020 calendar year. Contributions to the endowment will support the chapter's mission over the long-term by providing annual distributions for tomorrow's pediatricians. The fund was established in 2020 by Stuart T. Weinberg, MD. Special thanks to our founding donors.

## REVENUE AND SUPPORT

Grants	\$ 649,876	75%
Sponsorships & Other Income	92,888	11%
Membership Dues	127,583	14%
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 870,347</b>	



## EXPENSES

Payroll & Contract Services	\$ 685,724	81%
Travel & Meetings	80,024	10%
Operations	79,499	9%
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 845,247</b>	
<b>Change in Net Assets</b>	<b>\$ 25,100</b>	



## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Assets	\$ 619,461
<b>Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	
Liabilities	\$ 226,202
Net Assets	393,259
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>\$ 619,461</b>

## ENDOWMENT FUND

Balance as of June 30, 2020	\$ 6,448
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# Providing Timely, Relevant & Quality Education

EPSDT and Coding trainings reached **166 practices** and **388 providers and staff**.

Behavioral Health in Pediatrics (BEHIP) hosted **five office-based trainings** with **128 providers and staff**, hosted **10 virtual learning** collaborative sessions with **211 participants**.

TNAAP's three Quality Improvement Projects offering MOC Part IV engaged **242 physicians**, who serve **140,469 patients**.



Screening Tools and Referral Training (START) trained **778 participants** through **28 trainings** in developmental screening across the state.

**184 physicians** obtained CME for BEHIP on-line learning modules.



The Pediatric Council had **TEN** meetings with payers on behalf of pediatricians.

The Virtual Pediatric Practice Management Conference focused on 2020 E&M coding changes hosted **88 participants** representing **55 practices**.

# We Thrive Because of You!

This past year was tough for the medical community. National AAP and chapters across the nation saw drops in membership as pediatricians made cuts due to losses in revenue. Thanks to your faith in us, our membership levels only dipped slightly. **At the end of 2020, paid memberships were only down 4% in a year over year comparison. Additionally, we had 56 new members join during the year!**

We so appreciate you choosing to support the chapter and put your trust in us during these difficult and unprecedented times. Your **support, guidance and dedication** to Tennessee's children help make our work possible!

We could not be prouder of the pediatric community in TN who rose to the occasion again and again despite the extraordinary challenges of 2020.



## TNAAP Staff

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Ruth Allen, Executive Director  
 Janet Sutton, EPSDT and Coding Program Manager  
 Susan Rollyson, START Program Manager  
 Elaine Riley, BeHiP Program Manager  
 Becky Brumley, PHiIT Program Manager and Quality Coach  
 Melissa Koffman, Finance Manager  
 Casey Lamarr, Marketing and Communications Director

## TNAAP Board of Directors

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Anna Morad, MD - President  
 Jason Yaun, MD - Vice President  
 Carlenda Smith, MD - Secretary  
 Karen Schetzina, MD Membership Chair  
 Deanna Bell MD, Nominating  
 Chair/Immediate Past President

### Fellows-at-Large

Suzanne Berman, MD (East)  
 Paty Carasusan, MD (West)  
 Elizabeth Copenhaver, MD (Middle)  
 Gayatri Jaishankar, MD (East)  
 Debo Odulana, MD (West)  
 Lindsey Wargo, MD (Middle)

Thank  
you