Arkansas Stroke Assistance Winter 2015/2016

Through Virtual Emergency Support

*The Penumbra*

*Welcome to Winter 2015/2016 issue of The Penumbra*

Welcome to the Winter 2015/2016 issue of the quarterly newsletter for the ARSAVES program! We hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas, Hanukah and New Year. Our wish is that the information presented in each issue, you will find informative, entertaining and illustrative of the dedication of those involved in the program. We look forward to seeing how the program will evolve and grow in the next few years.

In this issue we welcome the new ARSAVES Director, Renee Joiner to the SAVES staff and learn a little about her. We hope you will all make her feel welcome. We are excited at her arrival and the talents and dedication she brings to the team. With the New Year, comes new beginnings, new hopes and new initiatives. We are excited to embark on a new journey and charting new waters and breaking into new frontiers! This is the year to put ARSAVES on the forefront of Stroke Care nation-wide!

*Welcome Renee Joiner to ARSAVES! By David Wollard*

 We are very happy to welcome Renee Joiner to ARSAVES taking on the role of ARSAVES Director of Operations, a position formally held by Michael Manley. Ms. Joiner spent her formative years in the Arkansas delta and understands firsthand the struggles of those with little to no access to affordable healthcare. This understanding makes her an ideal selection for this position. She graduated from the University of Central Arkansas in 1983 with a degree in Biology and Sociology, and again in 1997 when she was awarded her BSN, graduating Cum Laude.

Renee served as the Trauma Section Chief for the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) for the past six years.  The Trauma System became a reality during her time with the Trauma Section.  She was with ADH for 28 years, 23 of which were in leadership roles.  Her vast public health experience includes work with Public Health Preparedness, Health Systems Licensing and Regulatory Branch, Cancer Registry, HIV Prevention, HIV Services, Tobacco Prevention, Maternal and Child Health, and the Chronic Disease Branch.

In addition, she has seven years of clinical nursing experience while working on the bone marrow transplant research unit at UAMS.  She has presented the “Arkansas experience” at many national and regional conferences and workshops. Please join us in giving Renee a hearty ARSAVES welcome!

*Welcome Tim Vandiver to ARSAVES! By David Wollard
* We are excited to have Tim as the newest addition to the ARSAVES staff in the roll of Outreach Nurse. Tim started his EMS career in 1982 as a basic EMT for Conway Memorial Hospital, and at Medic-Vac. ambulance in Little Rock. He then decided to become a Paramedic and attended Paramedic school in Forrest City graduating in 1984. Upon graduation Tim became a Firefighter/Paramedic in his home town of Jacksonville.

Tim also worked at MEMS part-time for 12 years. Tim became an RN during his employment with Jacksonville Fire Department and has continued to work as an RN and maintain his Paramedic licensure as well. Tim has been very active teaching at UAMS in the Emergency Medical Services program, doing ACLS, PALS and other training for emergency service providers for many years. Tim has been with Conway Regional Emergency Department for the last 20 years, the last 5 as Trauma Coordinator, and recently resigned to join the ARSAVES staff at UAMS. Tim will be focusing on providing stroke education for EMS agencies in Arkansas as well as becoming the outreach nurse for 6 hospitals in eastern Arkansas. Please join ARSAVES in welcoming Tim into the family!

 *A New Initiative for 2016 by Tim Vandiver*

*FOCUS EMS-* ARSAVES and EMS. Have we neglected one of our first links in the rapid treatment of stroke patients? Educating pre-hospital EMS providers is going to be one of my main outreach goals in my new position with ARSAVES. As a group of health care providers we have done a great job at getting ARSAVES sites up and running rapidly treating the stroke patients in Arkansas. We have all seen many changes in recognizing and initiating treatment for these patients. However, it appears that most of our efforts have been aimed at training the general public and the hospital staff. Have we neglected the very people that treat and transport more than 50% of all stroke patients to the hospital?

One of my goals as a new Outreach Nurse for the ARSAVES program is to spend a great deal of time doing in-services for our pre-hospital providers. I will be emphasizing rapid triage, rapid treatment and rapid transport to the hospital. This will include giving a good report on the radio regarding the patient’s condition, deficits and Last Known Well Time. I will also be explaining why we need a reliable adult family member and a current list of medications and their importance in assessing eligibility for t-PA.

As a Paramedic/RN for over 30 years, I understand the turf wars and disparity among the prehospital and the hospital staff. We have to understand that we are all working to provide better care and that entails lots of different roles to get the job done. We have to remember that we are telling the prehospital care providers to get the patient loaded up, oxygen on, and get enroute to the hospital quickly. We also want them to do an EKG, start at least one IV, draw blood, sit them up at 30 degrees, do some form of stroke scale, give a good radio report and do it all in 10 minutes or less. We sometimes think that there are 2 crew members, but remember one of them has to drive the ambulance.

Over the next year or so I hope to be able to reach out to as many EMS providers as possible. I will be letting them know why the ED’s are requesting so much of them. I will also be letting ED’s know why some things may not be able to be done before the patient arrives. Hopefully this education outreach will alleviate some of the issues between the prehospital and hospital providers. Remember we are all doing it for the same reason: TIME IS BRAIN.

Let me know if you have any particular ideas or concerns that you would like me to present as I undergo this outreach. I look forward to working with all of you.

*News You Can Use by Lauren Scott*

Educational Materials from Genentech

At the Nurse Facilitators Retreat, questions were asked in regards to the educational materials offered from Genentech. A great website for those is: <http://www.strokeawareness.com/> if you need specific educational materials, contact your health educator. For any clinical materials, contact your outreach nurse.

AR SAVES Website

Our website is undergoing major reconstruction! Please be patient with us during this process. If at any time, any forms or additional information is needed and is no longer available, please contact Lauren Scott at lbscott@uams.edu or 501-410-4278 for assistance.

AR SAVES Promotional Items

We are in the process of updating the look of our current items and ordering new ones! Many suggestions were made at the Nurse Facilitators Retreat and those are being taken into consideration. Also, more items geared towards the younger population will be available.

Mega Brain Link

Below is the link to complete a request for the Mega Brain at your outreach function. Once you submit your request, it will go before a committee for approval. You will be notified via email once a decision is made regarding your request. Please keep in mind there will be a few factors the committee has to regard, for instance if there are two requests for the same date/time. The size of the event, target audience, location, etc. will be taken into consideration. A few reminders as well: if the event is outdoors, weather is a huge factor. If there is any type of precipitation (even mist), the Mega Brain will NOT be set up and inflated. The Mega Brain is very large and requires a minimum of six (the more the better) volunteers to assist with set up/break down and manning it. Crowd control is necessary! If at any time you have questions, please contact your health educator.

<http://arkansaselink.com/the-mega-brain-has-become-a-powerful-exhibit-in-educating-the-public-about-the-brain-and-stroke-it-will-be-an-effective-tool-at-your-community-events/>

AR SAVES Monthly Report

Just another reminder that your site’s monthly report is due by the 15th of each month! When our quarterly reports are due, it’s imperative we have all information in as soon as possible in order to prevent any delays!! If you have any questions regarding the data portion, contact your outreach nurse. In regards to community outreach: Every month we require a minimum of one ACTIVE event and a minimum of one PASSIVE event. If more than one Active event is done, a Passive event is not required, although highly recommended. Please report ALL events on your report-whether it’s one of each or 10 of each. The more education the better! If you are struggling for any reason to get your outreach complete, contact your health educator for assistance. Also, when reporting, be as specific as possible. If materials are placed in a doctor’s office-how many were placed, what materials were placed, and what is the name of the clinic/who is the doctor at that office? And again, if acronyms are used, please let us know what it stands for! Any questions regarding reporting community outreach, contact your health educator.

As discussed at the Nurse Facilitators Retreat, the health education team will create a new list of outreach ideas. If you have any that you feel are unique or creative, please share with us and we will add them to the list.

American Stroke Month

May is American Stroke Month and it will be here before we know it! Even though stroke education is important every day, use this month to go a step above what you already do! There are numerous resources on the web focusing specifically on stroke month.



2016 Strike Out Stroke Dates

Thursday, April 7th

Northwest Arkansas Naturals, Arvest Ballpark in Springdale

Thursday, May 5th

Arkansas Travelers, Dickey-Stephens Park in North Little Rock

Start planning ahead- Consider stroke survivors to invite and who is able to volunteer!

***Reminders****: Please ensure that your monthly mocks are completed as well as your monthly data submission. Data is to be received by ARSAVES no later than the 15th of each month, covering the previous month.*

*If you have something you would like to submit for the next quarterly newsletter, send to* *wollarddavidl@uams.edu* *for consideration.*

*See you next time!*