

# MIEMSS Presents Annual EMS Awards

(Continued from page 5)

medical director for pediatrics at MIEMSS from 2000 until his retirement in December 2017, and as a member of the Statewide EMS Advisory Council from 1995 to 2014, having been the first pediatrician selected to serve on this council.

As chair of Pediatric Emergency Medicine and director of the Pediatric Emergency Department at Johns Hopkins Children Center, Dr. Walker was instrumental in the hospital's transition to a Pediatric Base Station, enabling emergency responders immediate access to pediatric emergency medicine attending physicians. He was also a member of the leadership team that developed into the Hopkins Outreach in Pediatric Education initiative, an innovative outreach program that travels to rural areas of Maryland ensuring that the newest clinical challenges in pediatrics reaches a wide and diverse audience.

Dr. Walker established a liaison between the state Pediatric Emergency Medical Advisory Group (the state's EMS for Children program committee) and the Maryland American Academy of Pediatrics Committee on Pediatric Emergency Medicine. Through his role on the Maryland AAP Education Committee, Dr. Walker was instrumental in developing the first AAP conference focused on emergency medicine, which provided a platform for expert faculty from pediatric specialty centers to share clinical practice guidelines with other pediatric physicians serving rural, suburban, and urban areas throughout Maryland. Dr. Walker was also instrumental in bringing Pediatric Education for Prehospital Providers and the AAP's Advances in Pediatric Life Support courses to prehospital and hospital workers in Maryland.

In addition to his significant contributions to pediatric emergency medical care, Dr. Walker is a nationally recognized expert in child victimization, and has worked closely with the child protective services and judicial branches of Maryland's cities and counties to protect children and youth, advocate for their safety, and educate both primary and emergency care providers.

## Right Care When It Counts Awards

This year, seven young Marylanders each received a Right Care When It Counts award for providing assistance to others in need during an emergency.

On February 23, 2017, **Timothy Saunders (TJ)** (aged 16), **Matthew Saunders** (aged 14), **Ava Hittle** (aged 9), **Emma Hittle** (aged 12), and **Tyler Allnut** (aged 15) were playing with their friend Justin when he was

accidentally hit in the chest with a high-speed lacrosse ball. Justin collapsed and was unresponsive. TJ called 9-1-1 and Emma called Justin's father, who promptly alerted two adult neighbors to see if they could help. Matthew gave support to Ava, comforting and shielding her from the incident. Upon arrival, the neighbors began CPR while awaiting EMS while Tyler stayed with Justin and shared important details of the incident with the two adult neighbors.

EMS arrived seven minutes after TJ's call and took control of the scene. Justin was defibrillated once in the field and intubated, and then transported to Bayview Medical Center via ambulance. He was later transferred to Johns Hopkins Hospital Pediatric Intensive

Care Unit with a diagnosis of commotio cordis, a disruption of the cardiac rhythm that is often fatal, as well as complications following CPR. But Justin was discharged to home fully-recovered after ten days in the hospital. These youths were honored for their swift actions during this life-threatening event; they acted promptly to alert EMS and adults to get emergency medical care for Justin, saving his life.

**Madison Aierstock** (aged 10) and her mother were out walking their dog when a loose dog attacked them. Putting herself in harm's way, Madison's mother was viciously attacked and bitten. Madison immediately called 9-1-1 for assistance. Her mother had

(Continued on page 7)



Five young Marylanders receive Right Care When It Counts awards for calling 9-1-1 and providing support when one of their friends was hit with a high-speed lacrosse ball in the chest. From left, MIEMSS Acting Co-Executive Directors Dr. Richard Alcorta and Pat Gainer; EMS Board Chair Donald L. DeVries, Jr., Esq.; Maryland Lt. Governor Boyd K. Rutherford; Matthew Saunders; Tyler Allnut; Ava Hittle; Justin (last name withheld for privacy), the patient who suffered the life-threatening injury; Emma Hittle; Associate State EMS Medical Director for Pediatrics Jennifer F. Anders, MD; and Maryland EMS for Children Program Director Cynthia Wright-Johnson. Not Pictured: Timothy (TJ) Saunders.



From left, MIEMSS Acting Co-Executive Directors Dr. Richard Alcorta and Pat Gainer; EMS Board Chair Donald L. DeVries, Jr., Esq.; Maryland Lt. Governor Boyd K. Rutherford; Alex Dale Nelson; Associate State EMS Medical Director for Pediatrics Jennifer F. Anders, MD; and Maryland EMS for Children Program Director Cynthia Wright-Johnson. Alex received a Right Care When It Counts award for securing medical care for his mother, who experienced a seizure while driving.

# MIEMSS Presents Annual EMS Awards



Team members of Frederick County Mobile Integrated Health (MIH) Care Program, one of the newest MIH programs in Maryland, accept an Executive Director's Award for Excellence in EMS.



The Baltimore City Fire Department's Leadership Team members receive a MIEMSS Executive Director's Award for Excellence in EMS for Baltimore City's Mobile Integrated Health Program.



From left, Senator Stephen S. Hershey, Jr., Maryland Lt. Governor Boyd K. Rutherford, Senator Thomas "Mac" Middleton, Director of Dorchester County Department of Emergency Services Anna Sierra, and EMS Board Chair Donald L. DeVries, Jr., Esq. Senators Hershey and Middleton were honored for their work addressing a critical need for mobile integrated health program funding at the state level. Anna Sierra was recognized for her leadership and advocacy on behalf of mobile integrated health in Maryland.

(Continued from page 6)

to be taken by ambulance to the hospital for medical care. During the ride to the hospital, Madison revealed that she was a Girl Scout and that she knew what to do and what to say to the dispatcher because she had just participated in 9-1-1 training during the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Girl Scout Day.

The FEMA event included hands-only CPR training, 9-1-1 dispatch and call services, home fire safety and family fire planning, a family emergency kit relay race and training session, a mock disaster exercise, and a panel featuring career safety professionals. Putting her new skills to use, Madison made the right call for help during this frightening incident.

**Alex Dale Nelson** (aged 12) was riding in the car with his mother, who suffers from seizures, when he observed that her behavior changed suddenly. Alex had his mother pull over to the side of the road, locked her car door as she tried to get out and walk around, and took ice from her, fearing she could choke. He called his father, who immediately left work to assist. But only a few moments later, Alex's mother began to suffer a seizure; Alex then called 9-1-1 for help.

Solomons Rescue Squad arrived only a short time later to provide medical care to Alex's mother. His quick thinking and actions, and proper use of the 9-1-1 system, likely saved him and his mother from a motor vehicle crash or further injury.

MIEMSS deeply appreciates the heroism, commitment, and service of each of these awardees. These citizens, providers, and programs epitomize those values that make EMS systems in Maryland among the best in the world. Congratulations to all award winners, and a sincere thank you to all EMS providers for their service to the citizens of Maryland.

*Not Pictured:*

**Valerie Kramer,**  
Maryland EMS Citizen Award

**Allen R. Walker, MD, MBA, FAAP,**  
Maryland EMS for Children Award

**Madison Aierstock,**  
Right Care When It Counts Award