

Dear Colleagues,

I hope this finds everyone healthy and able to enjoy a bit of summer, though it is an unusual one to be sure. Our new Board of Directors started on July 1, 2020 with a solid footing, thanks to Dr. Maria Brown's leadership over the past two years. We have hit the ground running, and I look forward to continuing to advocate on behalf of our members and the families they serve during these challenging times.

School reopening is weighing on everyone's mind, especially as we anxiously watch the trends in new cases of COVID-19 in Maryland. If you have not had a chance to look at the National AAP guidance on school re-opening, "COVID-19 Planning Considerations: Return to In-person Education in Schools," you can review it [here](#). At a State level, we are working with the Maryland Department of Health and the Maryland State Department of Education to make sure there is provider input into discussions about reopening classrooms in Maryland. Issues we are addressing are the availability of testing kits, turnaround times for results, and the availability of PPE. While several counties and Baltimore City have announced plans through early 2021, there will be ample opportunity for input as those new dates approach. Please consider reaching out to your local board of education if you would like to have a voice on this issue in your jurisdiction.

We have also launched the MDAAP Committee to Achieve Anti-Racism, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion under the leadership of Dr. Jacqueline Douge'. Subcommittees are being formed to begin the work, and the next Full Committee meeting will be on Wednesday, October 7, 2020 at 6:30-7:30 p.m. ET. Please check your email or contact our MDAAP Executive Director Loretta I. Hoepfner ([loretta@mdaap.org](mailto:loretta@mdaap.org)) if you are interested in becoming involved.

We continue to look for ways to support families struggling with isolation during the COVID-19 pandemic. Members of the MDAAP Emotional Health Committee, under the leadership of Dr. Ken Tellerman, are volunteering for the "Parents' Place of Maryland Parentemic Warmline." This line offers scheduled "talk with a doc" opportunities for parents to discuss concerns about their child's emotional well-being and development during the COVID-19 pandemic. The service will be piloted with Menchavez Pediatrics, and then expanded as feasible.

In addition to addressing these current urgent needs, our MDAAP staff and members are continuing to move other important work forward. Projects are under way to address gun violence and safety, substance abuse (SBIRT ECHO project), mental health, sex trafficking, and we are launching a new grant focused on family and youth engagement in the MDAAP Chapter. Please contact our MDAAP Executive Director Loretta I. Hoepfner ([loretta@mdaap.org](mailto:loretta@mdaap.org)) if you are interested in finding out more about any of these projects.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer!

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Debbie Badawi, MD, FAAP". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Debbie Badawi, MD, FAAP

MDAAP Chapter President

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