What is Outside of the Walls in Which You Work?

Pepper Henyon, MD, FAAP
• Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It’s not.

• Dr. Seuss
• There is a lot of work to be done
It Takes a Community to Raise a Child

• The child often does not have a choice
• The child often does not have a voice
• Be the voice of the child
• Speak out for children
I Believe that Children Need a Voice
• The child who is emotionally, physically, sexually abused, neglected, or in a home with drug or alcohol abuse. . .
Give that child a voice
The child and her mother living in poverty, having no place to stay, living in their car.
Give that child a voice
• The infant of a mother with severe post partum depression, the child with a mother with untreated bipolar disorder, the teen whose father committed suicide and now he is feeling suicidal. . .
Give that child a voice
• The child living at Fort Peck with no drinkable running water from his tap. Served only juice, chocolate milk and strawberry milk as beverages at his school. Living in a community where pop costs less than water. Who has severe dental disease/abcesses. Who can’t talk because his mouth hurts so much and had a friend die last year from a dental abcess.
Give that child a voice
Oath

- I will give that child a voice.
- I will help to be the voice of the children in Montana
The Reality. . .

- A committee of 1 can only do so much.
A Committee of Many Can Do a Whole Heck of a Lot More

- A case study of what can happen when a group of pediatricians unite to give the child a voice.
Montana Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

- Building Relationships
- Chapter priorities
- Subcommittees
- Partner with MMA and now our voice is louder and heard by more
- A part of national American Academy of Pediatrics
Secrets to Success of Our Chapter

- Hire the right person with a similar vision
- Personal contact of the pediatricians
- Knowing individual interests
- Engage young physicians
- Ask for help
- Partnerships
There’s a Lot of Work to be Done

• Yes, doctor. . . and. . . any little, tiny thing that you do today, is 100% more than what was done yesterday.

• Celebrate any tiny achievement.
• You’re off to great places! Today is your day! Your mountain is waiting, so get on your way!

• Dr. Seuss
Thanks!