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Children’s Hospital Association of Texas

Fills Key Leadership Roles

AUSTIN, Texas — The Children’s Hospital Association of Texas (CHAT) announced today that it has hired two new staff members. Paul M. Townsend, J.D. was hired in November, and serves as the agency’s director of public policy. Kathy Eckstein, CHAT’s current director of public policy, will become senior policy advisor and move to part-time effective January 2. Dana Danaher MSN, RN, CPHQ will start January 1, 2017 as the director of quality and safety.

CHAT is a non-profit association with seven children’s hospital members, including [Children’s Health](http://www.childrens.com/) (Dallas), The [Children’s Hospital of San Antonio](http://www.chofsa.org/), [Cook Children’s Health Care System](https://www.cookchildrens.org/Pages/default.aspx) (Fort Worth), [Covenant Children’s Hospital](http://www.covenanthealth.org/About-Us/Facilities/Childrens-Hospital.aspx) (Lubbock), [Dell Children’s Medical Center of Central Texas](http://www.dellchildrens.net/) (Austin), [Driscoll Children’s Hospital](http://www.driscollchildrens.org/) (Corpus Christi) and [Texas Children’s Hospital](http://www.texaschildrens.org/Default.aspx) (Houston). CHAT’s mission is to advance children’s health and well-being by advocating for policies and funding that promote children’s access to high-quality, comprehensive health care.

“Paul and Dana each bring an extraordinary level of knowledge, experience and commitment to our organization,” Stacy Wilson, CHAT president, said. “We could not have found two more qualified team members to help us advocate for children’s health during the 85th Texas Legislature.”

Townsend brings nearly ten years of legal and policy experience to the CHAT staff. He received his law degree from St. Mary’s University in San Antonio and has served as the legislative director and general counsel to Texas Senator Sylvia Garcia since 2014. He has also held staff positions with Texas Senator Robert Nichols and Texas Representative Allen Ritter, as well as with the State Board of Dental Examiners and the Texas Workforce Commission.

Danaher has worked in the field of children’s health for 18 years. She is a doctoral candidate at the University of Texas Health Sciences Center Houston, School of Public Health and holds MSN and BSN degrees from the University of Texas at Austin. For the last year, Danaher has worked as the director of quality collaboratives, education and advocacy, a position shared by CHAT and Texas Children’s Hospital in Houston. Prior to that, she held positions with Dell Children’s Medical Center of Central Texas and Children’s Hospital of Austin.

For more information about CHAT and its member hospitals, visit [www.chatexas.com](http://www.childhealthtx.org).

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About the Children’s Hospital Association of Texas

The mission of the Children’s Hospital Association of Texas (CHAT) is to advance children’s health and well-being by advocating for policies and funding that promote children’s access to high-quality, comprehensive health care. Since 1989, CHAT has worked to advance its goals and public policy objectives in cooperation with other trade associations, advocacy groups, state agencies and the Texas Legislature.

[www.chatexas.com](http://www.chatexas.com)