Maine EMS Director Wil O’Neal recognized Pen Bay Medical Center for its readiness to care for pediatric patients during a ceremony held in front of the hospital’s Emergency Department entrance Tuesday, May 7.

Pen Bay was named a Pediatric Innovator, the highest designation offered by the Always Ready for Children (ARC) Program, which aims to ensure that every ill and injured child receives appropriate emergency medical care within Maine-based emergency departments.

“This is not a designation we take lightly and one we fully intend to uphold by assuring the highest level of emergency care is given to patients of all ages in our community and beyond,” Pen Bay Chief of Emergency Medicine Tyler Giberson, MD, said at the event.

Director O’Neal presented the award to Dr. Giberson and Pediatric Emergency Care Coordinator Diane Hynes, RN, in front of a crowd of hospital staff, local EMTs and community members. He was joined at the event by State Representative Vicki Doudera, District 41 (Camden and Rockport), who spoke about the hospital’s readiness to take care of her own children whenever they visited the Emergency Department over the years. She also applauded the hospital’s willingness to share resources and best practices with other Maine hospitals, which is required in order to receive the Pediatric Innovator designation.

Pen Bay is only the second hospital in the state to be recognized as a Pediatric Innovator, joining Maine Medical Center in Portland. To receive the designation, a hospital must have a physician and nurse pediatric emergency care coordinator, be willing to share resources with other hospitals in Maine to improve pediatric care and receive a high score on the National Pediatric Readiness Project.

The National Pediatric Readiness Project is a survey of the “readiness” of an Emergency Department to care for an ill or injured presenting child. With a score of 93, Pen Bay’s Emergency Department has received one of the highest pediatric readiness scores in the state of Maine and is significantly above the national median of 69.

“Pen Bay Chief of Emergency Medicine Tyler Giberson, MD, thanked the Pen Bay Emergency Department team and spoke about the hospital’s commitment to providing the highest level of emergency care to patients of all ages during a ceremony held Tuesday, May 7, outside the hospital. Pen Bay was recognized by Maine EMS Director Wil O’Neal for its readiness to care for pediatric patients as part of the Always Ready for Children Program. Pictured, from left: Dr. Giberson; Pen Bay Emergency Department Pediatric Care Coordinator Diane Hynes, RN; and O’Neal.

Community Classes

Pen Bay ED Celebrated in Special Ceremony

Here’s a look at some of the events and programs we’re offering in the coming weeks. For additional classes, visit penbaywaldo.coursestorm.com.

Senior Health & Wellness Day Walk

Wednesday, May 29, 10:15-11:45 a.m.
Rockland Public Library
Join the Community Health department, hospital executives and staff from the Rockland Public Library in a community walk to celebrate Senior Health and Fitness Day. The walk will begin at the library and continue around Rockland for up to two miles. For more information, contact vikki.webster@mainehealth.org or call 301-3950.

Alzheimer’s Disease Support Group

Tuesday, June 4, 6 p.m.
Virtual session
This group provides information and support to area residents who have loved ones coping with Alzheimer’s disease or related dementias. Contact Cheri R. Blouin, LSW, at 301-6237 or cheri.blouin@mainehealth.org for meeting details.

Breastfeeding Support Group

Wednesday, June 5-26, 11 a.m. to noon
Beebe Center, 15 Anchor Drive, Rockport
This informal support group for breastfeeding families provides interaction as well as individual assistance when needed. Women wanting more information about breastfeeding are also welcome. Please call 301-8337 for more information.

Happy Wanderers Hiking Group

Thursday, June 6, 10 a.m. to noon
McLellan-Poor Preserve, Belfast
Coastal Mountains Land Trust and the Pen Bay and Waldo Community Health department are pleased to offer monthly guided hikes, free and open to all ability levels. This hike is two miles long and the level is easy. Please visit penbaywaldo.coursestorm.com or call 301-3950 to register, and coastalmountains.org/get-outside for the full schedule of hikes.

Mental Health First Aid

Tuesday, June 4, 6 p.m.
Pen Bay Physician’s Building, Conference Room C, 4 Glen Cove Drive, Rockport
Mental Health First Aid teaches you how to identify, understand and respond to signs of mental health and substance use challenges among adults over the age of 18. This course is open to all community members, staff and social services employees. All participants will receive a certification in Mental Health First Aid. Please visit penbaywaldo.coursestorm.com or call 301-3950 to register.