

## Michigan Chapter American Academy of Pediatrics Nomination Form 2010

Name: Jeannette “Lia” Gaggino

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Medical School: Michigan State University School of Human Medicine 1984

Residency: Southwest Michigan Area Health Education Center (SMAHEC) now MSU Kalamazoo Center for Medical Studies (MSU-KCMS)

Specialty: General Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine

Year you became a FAAP member: 1988

Current Professional Position: General Pediatrician /group practice – Bronson Hospital

Place of Employment: Bronson Rambling Road Pediatrics, Kalamazoo

Principal Medical Society Memberships and Faculty Appts and other relevant medical appts: American Academy of Pediatrics, Michigan AAP, MSMS, Kalamazoo Academy of Medicine, Society of Adolescent Medicine, Volunteer Faculty MSU-KCMS

Current/Prior Membership on MIAAP or AAP Councils/Committees/Section: Current member of both MIAAP and AAP. MIAAP Chair of the Mental Health Committee, Section AAP Adolescent Medicine

Position on MIAAP you wish to be considered for: Vice President Elect

*Please briefly state why you would like to be considered for this position, what qualifications would be an asset to MIAAP and what are the top 2 AAP policy priorities you would shepherd on the board if elected:*

1. I see the VP elect position as a platform for voicing the needs and concerns of children on the local, state and national level. I am a “big picture” person and see the MIAAP as a way to advocate for policies regarding children and to network with physicians across the state in promoting children’s health.
2. Two years ago I wanted to become more active in the MIAAP and join the mental health committee and discovered that one did not exist. With the encouragement and support of the Academy I now chair the mental health committee. I also started a coalition in Kalamazoo to partner with public and private mental health providers and schools to address mental health on the local level. We organized a primary care mental health conference sponsored by the MIAAP and Kalamazoo County Community Mental Health. I believe this model can be implemented in other communities.
3. My passions have been adolescent health and mental health. I believe that mental health impacts every aspect of the child’s life be it chronic or acute illness, obesity, school performance, or indeed family and social function. With training, pediatricians can readily assess and treat mental illness, and our understanding of child development allows us an insight unique to our field.

Teens are an underserved population, and meeting their needs in a place of familiarity and comfort, our offices and clinics, are ideal. Addressing general health and fitness, healthy eating, school performance, high-risk behaviors, and emotional well-being must become second nature to us. If we truly want to save our teens our concern must be identifying why the third reason they die is suicide. I believe we can become lifesavers.

*What initiatives would you support to develop the capacity of the MIAAP to meet the needs of our members and support the mission of the organization?*

My priority is to support physician’s relationships with patients. We have the opportunity to impact children in our offices and clinics and in the community by being their voice. In order for us to do this we must have time, and must be recognized as champions for children. We may not operate but we communicate, orchestrate and treat children. As such, our endeavors must be supported by governing bodies, communities, employers and insurers. As Vice President Elect I will advocate for physician reimbursement recognizing our time and expertise.

Secondly I would like to promote physician education on the local community level. In addition to our annual meeting, I would like to see more in-office, hands-on training to implement screening and protocol implementation. This would expand on the work

being done in various MIAAP committees and help physicians incorporate services available in their own communities.

My vision is to encourage physicians to use their passions and interests in promoting children's health and well-being and to support local and statewide initiatives.

I hope that I may be able to serve you as Vice President Elect

Respectfully,

Lia Gaggino  
Kalamazoo