

**Chiropractic Care and SIDS**  
**Commentary Review by Thomas G. Keens, MD**  
**~ June 25, 2011 ~**

*Kitty Roche*, PHN member of the California State SIDS Advisory Council from San Diego, was sent this website link from one of the PHNs in her county. The PHN got it from a parent who was seeing a Chiropractor:

<http://www.stottschiro.com/chiropractic-treatments-and-conditions/chiropractic-for-children/>

The site is that of a Chiropractor named *Doctor Stotts*, in San Angelo, Texas, who claims that SIDS may be due to subluxation of the spine, and that chiropractic treatment of babies may help prevent this. The site references a book review from 2001 entitled, *The Best-Kept Secret to Raising a Healthy Child...and the Possible Prevention of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS)\** written by *Craig Wehrenberg, DC* and *Dr. Tracey Mulhall-Wehrenberg, DC*. The book is available in small quantities from Amazon.com. The organization, presumably a chiropractic organization, which theoretically promotes SIDS and chiropractic research seems no longer to exist (the website in the review indicated that it was "for sale" by the previous owner).

While *Doctor Stotts* in San Angelo, Texas, is out of the jurisdiction of the California State SIDS Advisory Council, this is not a new issue, and we have had chiropractors in California claim that they could identify babies who would die from SIDS and prevent this death by realigning a subluxed spine. Previously, I contacted the California Board of Chiropractic, to suggest that such advertising was false, and I suggested that the Board should police its members not to make such unsubstantiated claims. To my dismay, their response was a typewritten article, without any references to substantiate their claims, indicating that such a practice was within the purview of chiropractic practice. Therefore, I do not think we will get much satisfaction from official chiropractic agencies.

Should you learn of chiropractors in California advertising that they can prevent SIDS, I would be very happy to contact them for their justification. I was not able to contact StopSIDS.org, as the organization has apparently ceased to exist.

Thank you very much for helping to improve SIDS services, education, and research in California.  
---Tom Keens

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*\*Note: A copy of the book review is available by request from the California SIDS Program.*



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