

Texas LAUNCH NEWS

Linking Action for Unmet Needs in Children's Health

MAY 2017 – Edition 6
*Children's Mental Health
Awareness Month*

Children's Mental Health Awareness Day 2017

Texas LAUNCH was in action at Children's Mental Health Awareness Day events May 6th in downtown Austin! The day began with a pep rally at the capitol raising awareness about children's mental health and wellbeing and listening to speaker [Anne Grady](#). Then the festivities continued with an enthusiastic march to Wooldridge Square Park where there were local vendors with helpful resources, games, and fun activities around the theme of Flight to Freedom from Stigma. Texas LAUNCH staff provided calendars to families with parenting tips, and butterfly fans to the kids while sharing information about the project. Other fun activities included a bounce house, fire truck tour, therapy pony, balloons and a magician, crafting stations and dance competitions among others. Over 220 children and families came and enjoyed the event. For information on event organizers and partners, please visit: <http://cmhaustin.weebly.com/>.



Health Disparities Toolkit for Community Action

The National Partnership for Action to End Health Disparities (NPA) launched a new resource this month - the [National Partnership for Action to End Health Disparities Toolkit for Community Action](#). NPA was developed with the mission of mobilizing and connecting individuals and organizations across the country to create a nation in which all people have a chance to reach their full potential. This toolkit will help individuals, communities, and organizations from the public and private sectors raise awareness about health disparities, engage others in conversations about the problems and solutions; and take action for change by implementing tools to address health in communities. For more information about the National Partnership for Action, visit: <http://minorityhealth.hhs.gov/npa/>.

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Welcome, Judy Willgren!

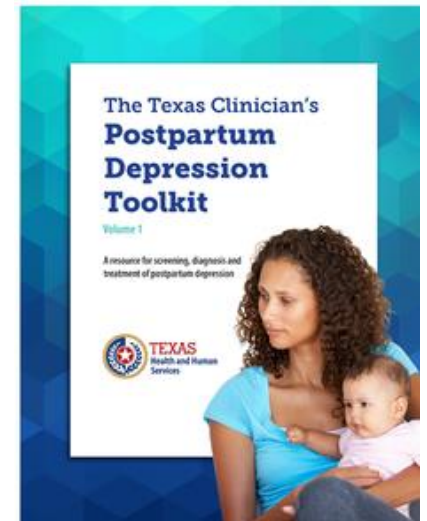
Texas LAUNCH is excited to introduce Judy Willgren, who joined the team May 1, 2017, and who will serve as the Texas LAUNCH Local Lead. Judy will directly support the Texas LAUNCH expansion communities by providing training, technical assistance, and general guidance as they implement Project LAUNCH initiatives. Judy holds a Master's degree in early childhood education and comes with a wealth of experience in the field of early childhood, including over 35 years of experience working at the local, state and federal levels. Her experience also includes working for the state Early Childhood Intervention program, working with Head Start/Early Head Start and child care programs across the country, and serving as a Head Start Fellow in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. In addition, Judy specializes in early childhood comprehensive systems development, most recently serving as the coordinator for the Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge Grant for Rhode Island, and assisting other states in aligning their early childhood systems. Introductory visits are being planned now with all three expansion communities. You can reach Judy at jwillgren@aliviane.org or 512-232-7131.

Postpartum Depression Toolkit

Mother's Day and Mental Health Awareness Month are great opportunities to talk openly about postpartum depression. Postpartum depression is a common, potentially serious and sometimes life-threatening condition. It is important to note that depression can occur during pregnancy as well as after the baby is born. Texas Health and Human Services Commission has developed a new toolkit intended to provide guidance to clinician's who may work with pregnant women or new mothers.

The new Texas Clinician's Postpartum Depression Toolkit is intended to be a resource for Texas clinicians on screening, diagnosis and treatment of postpartum depression. The toolkit includes coverage and reimbursement options for postpartum depression through Medicaid, CHIP, the Healthy Texas Women Program, the Family Planning Program and other referral options.

You can download the toolkit [here](#) and email womenshealth@hhsc.state.tx.us with any questions.



Trauma Informed Care Conference

Austin Child Guidance Center and St. David's Foundation hosted the second Trauma Informed Care Conference May 11-12th in Austin featuring Dan Siegel, M.D. Dr. Siegel provided a full-day presentation on the Interpersonal Neurobiology Approach to Trauma and its Treatment. Click [here](#) for access to the PowerPoint information shared during this presentation. Click [here](#) to access information on the breakout sessions offered the second day of the conference. Learn more about [Austin Child Guidance Center](#), a Trauma Informed Care center who also hosts the Trauma Informed Care Consortium.