

Texas LAUNCH Early Childhood Committee  
 Meeting Minutes  
 February 15, 2018



In Attendance:

<b>Department of State Health Services (DSHS) Title V-Maternal and Child Health (MCH) and Children with Special Health Care Needs (CSHCN)</b>		
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<b>Ysleta del Sur Pueblo (YSDP)</b>		
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<b>Other Partner Attendees</b>		
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I. **Welcome and Introductions** (Ramah Leith)

Participants introduced themselves and identified the community or agency they represent.

II. **Workgroup Breakout Time**

The three workgroups continued their activities to advance workgroup goals.

III. **Workgroup Presentations**

Each workgroup shared a summary of their current work, workgroup member lists, goals, and activities from the past quarter. All of this is documented in the attached slides.

a. **Family Strengthening** (Judy Willgren)

- Judy W. reported that the group had not met over the last quarter, but that she had produced a strategic plan for the workgroup based on past work and the new state sustainability plan. Family Strengthening Strategic Plan narrowed focus from 6 goals to 3 – the first focusing on the promotion of Incredible Years and Parent Cafés. The group reviewed the upcoming Incredible Years application and provided feedback; suggesting focus populations and formatting. Feedback was collected and given to Holly G. for revising the application and meeting the deadline of distribution of the application 2/16.
- Next steps identified for the group include:
  - Review updates to the state sustainability plan;
  - Continuously update workgroup strategic plan;
  - Explore communication and advertising opportunities.

b. **Developmental Screening** (Ramah Leith)

- Ramah L. reported that the group met twice within the last quarter. During that time the group:
  - Researched longitudinal data systems that other states are using for developmental screening (DS) data;
  - Met with WIC to look at ways of partnering, focusing on adding ASQ screenings to their review and education process. LAUNCH is also drafting an article for the WIC newsletter that will be sent to agencies all over the state;
  - Continues to explore barriers for billing for DS in well-child and other medical appointments;
  - Added Texas Pediatric Society and TAEYC representatives to the DS group;
  - Promoted the new [CDC Act Early App](#);
  - Added the app to the [Navigate Texas Website](#);
  - Promoted [The Parents Guide to Raising Healthy Happy Children](#);
- Next steps identified for the group include:
  - Develop the HCCT Contract that includes ASQ, IY, and MHC;
  - Provide a presentation to WIC staff on the benefits of the ASQ;
  - Finalize the article for the WIC newsletter;

- Educate and promote the need for DS requirements in Texas Rising Star facilities;
- Continue to promote THSteps OPD DS module cards at conferences;
- Continue to promote Agrilife DS modules to child care centers;
- Promote the upcoming LAUNCH ASQ Train the Trainer;
- Review home visiting ASQ screening data, expected to come out in FY'18;
- Continue to address the barriers for DS billing during medical visits;
- Continue to promote the new [CDC Act Early App](#)
- Continue to promote the [Parents Guide](#)

c. **Mental Health Consultation & Workforce Development Workgroup** (Holly Gurrsslin)

- Holly G. discussed the merge of the MHC workgroup with the workforce development workgroup. In addition Holly reported that the MHC workgroup hosted their first call on February 12<sup>th</sup>. The full workgroup will meet as needed, reporting to the Executive Steering Committee, who will report out to the state TLECC group. The ESC will also be responsible for the continued efforts of the larger group. During the first meeting the group:
  - Reviewed the national and state level LAUNCH project, discussed the charge of the group, and agreed upon topics and general workgroup plan/framework;
  - Discussed the 2016 [Competencies IECMHC](#) and reviewed ideas from previous strategic planning in 2017;
  - Began discussions around credentialing of MHC.
- Next steps identified for the group include:
  - Work toward a definition of MHC to fit the needs of Texas using the national definition as a framework
  - Collect and share resources suggested by the larger group

IV. **Expansion Community Program Updates:** Judy W. reported that community updates were formatted to elicit discussion regarding the community's activities, successes and challenges.

a. **Ysleta del Sur Pueblo** (Linda Wiley)

- Successes – Linda W. reported on the continued success of the collaborations with:
  - The Department of Behavioral Health, who recently changed their name to Sacred Connections. This collaboration has increased referrals, from CPS families, to IY classes. Linda reported that a new IY class had just begun with 11 parents participating, 8 of which are CPS referrals.
  - The Department of Health, who provides pre-natal classes. Linda is providing initial EPDS screenings and doing post follow-up screenings. DOH is referring families to the IY Babies class.

- Challenges – Linda reported the following challenges:
  - Resource shortage for children with identified delays or behavior issues. The project does not have funds to support a needed speech therapist. The speech therapist doesn't need to know the tribal native tongue, according to Linda, but to assist with English. This topic has been raised with the Tribal Council which serves as the ECWC for this expansion community. Some kids are qualifying for ECI, other are aging out or identified too late. ECI has not demonstrated consistency in follow-up and has a limited amount of sessions available to the children, thus YDSP is seeking the funding to support a speech therapist to work within the ELC.
  - MHC: gaining access to children in the home and schools. Past LAUNCH project in El Paso, reportedly were successful in the schools, but this is a new school district.
  - Need materials for IY classes, specifically books. Linda will follow-up with LAUNCH project Director on budget questions.
- BH Disparities: Linda reports continued collaboration with the DOH and DOBH looking at Tribal child outcomes and discussing the need for data within the Tribal Governance Council.
- Activities: Linda reported the following activities to the state committee for the last quarter:
  - Working to build a sustainable continuum of services that follow the child/family; :
  - Continued MHC support at Early Learning Center, Pre-K and Bright Stars child centers;
  - Continuing to incorporate cultural aspects into IY and PC training;
  - Planning to have F3Y's come to provide training to support endorsement;
  - Planning to have TBRI training for ELC, Pre-K staff;
  - Planning to have Judy W. come train infant/toddler teachers on developmentally appropriate practices and continuity of care.

**b. Bexar County Family Services Association (Fred Cardenas)**

- Successes – Fred C. reported the following successes over the last quarter:
  - First successful Parent Café due to social media marketing. Café was led by Tarah Glover and most participants reported attending due to social media marketing. Head start participant also attended and is interested in hosting PC's at their office;
  - A successful ECWC meeting with 10 participants who all made a commitment to bring additional partners in the future.
  - Judy W. provided a successful ASQ training with a grant partner (childcare center) who was using an old edition of the ASQ;
  - Salud America promoted MHC, from FSSA, as a promising practice. Someone in Maryland saw the promotion materials and wanted to be linked with resources. Judy W. followed-up to link interested party with efforts in their own state for access.
- Challenges – Fred reported on the following challenges:
  - Parent recruitment for parent-strengthening programs;

- Turnover in leadership at key partnerships slowing service progress;
- Possible upcoming funding changes due to organizations moving toward results-based accountability programming;
- Interested in having TEA be a representative at the TLECC table to assist with identifying opportunities for systemic change.
- BH Disparities – Fred reported on efforts to identify policy issues creating barriers to access of care. For example the transition from ECI to public school and advocacy efforts to address disparities.
- Activities: Fred reported the following activities to the state committee for the last quarter:
  - Being part of the Zero to Three TA team application;
  - Running a successful Parent Café in DePaul Wesley;
  - Hosting IY classes in the YWCA;
  - Continued growth within the local ECWC.

c. **Tarrant County MHMR** (Debbie Lindsey)

- Successes – Debbie L. reported on the following successes in the last quarter:
  - Hiring a new groups and child care coordinator to assist with the implementation of IY/PC;
  - Hosted the first ASQ Enterprise training on February 8<sup>th</sup>, with 6 centers and Keller ISD invested to participate;
  - Implementation of Parent Cafés in new areas: Arlington, 2 Homeless Shelters, Keller ISD, Everman ISD and refugee families;
  - The expansion of IY into Child Care Associates who will be supporting 23 centers serving 100 families in Tarrant County.
- Challenges – Debbie reported on the following challenges:
  - Distinguishing MH consults from other services they already provide and counting those for grant purposes;
  - Keeping up with the demand of Parent Cafes and IY requests by multiple centers, agencies and school districts;
  - Exploring feedback that LAUNCH Academy’s are only for Fort Worth and having to turn other centers away;
  - Needing IY/PC forms in multiple languages to support refugee population;
  - Needing 4 staff trained in IY Babies and Preschool programs from CCA.
- BH Disparities – Laura K. reported on efforts to participate in the Las Vegas Trail Zip Code Subcommittees (Health and Wellness Social Services, Education, and Safety). One effort moving into place is that the mobile crisis outreach team has assigned a bus to assist families in this zip code and MHMR will provide a staff member to provide developmental screenings for children through the mobile unit.
- Activities: Debbie reported the following activities to the state committee for the last quarter:

- Planning LAUNCH Academy for Spring 2018 for 40 additional FW child care center Directors;
- Exploring how to provide additional support to agencies using the ASQ Enterprise System;
- Developing a process for ASQ screeners being submitted to MHMR/s website ([www.EarlyisBestNorthTexas.org](http://www.EarlyisBestNorthTexas.org)) from the Enterprise link;
- Executing MOU’s with child care centers and ISD’s regarding their interest in 4 core LAUNCH strategies.

V. **Community Support Activities:** Judy Willgren reported the following activities for the last quarter:

- a. Biannual Site Visits are being scheduled and will include observations of ASQ implementation, IY and/or PC facilitation, council meetings, discussions on behavioral health disparities, and sustainability.
- b. An “All Community Meeting” is currently being planned for May 16<sup>th</sup> which will allow communities an opportunity to share challenges, successes, efforts at sustainability, and explore hosting state level speakers (Medicaid Billing/ ECI/TEA] to assist with systemic change questions.
- c. Monthly calls continue as a means to be up to date in real time on community efforts
- d. ASQ trainings are scheduled for:
  - Austin on February 21<sup>st</sup> through the First3Years Austin Chapter;
  - San Antonio on April 13<sup>th</sup> and July 20<sup>th</sup> through the Voices for Children
  - Ft. Worth on April 19<sup>th</sup> through the LAUNCH Academy
- e. Additional trainings being offered:
  - Infant/Toddler Development and Continuity of Care training in YDSP.
- f. IY Community of Learners: Judy reported that first call has been set for March 20<sup>th</sup> with corresponding calls in June and September. Calls will focus on providers who are seasoned and new to implementation to discuss challenges, successes, and resources.
- g. Mental Health Consultation transition to School Districts – Judy reported that she is working with communities to determine what elements are needed in following children into the school districts and providing MHC when none exist.
- h. HOPE Grant – Judy reported that Project HOPE Consortium is from the Build Initiative and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. HOPE stands for Harness Opportunity for Positive Equitable Early Childhood Development. Services will focus on Prenatal – 5 years of age with 200K for 7 states over a 24 month period. 80k will be offered up to 18 months for 8 communities across the country. Judy reported that she will be supporting all expansion communities in efforts to apply.

VI. **State Activities Update** (Holly Gursslin, Judy Willgren and Erica Shapiro)

- a. The 13<sup>th</sup> Edition of the TX LAUNCH Newsletter was released 1/3/18. Holly requested TLECC members share with their stakeholders and email Holly with names of those wanting to be included in the dissemination list serve.
- b. State Sustainability Plan: Holly reported that the state LAUNCH team has been in the process of drafting a sustainability plan. The plan addresses the three strategies of Family Strengthening, Workforce Development/Mental Health

Consultation, and Developmental Screening as well as a communication plan. The plan will be a living document and will be modified as needed.

- c. CYBHS Meeting: In order to develop sustainability of the Texas LAUNCH Early Childhood Committee (TLECC) and efforts beyond the grant period, Ramah was invited to speak to the HHS Behavioral Health Advisory Subcommittee called the Children and Youth Behavioral Health Subcommittee (CYBHS). This group voted unanimously to bring the TLECC group under the oversight of the CYBHS and allow Ramah to be a voting member.
- d. Zero to Three Application – Judy reported that a technical assistance opportunity came up from Zero to Three (ZTT) - a national organization recognized for its policy and training efforts in addressing the needs of very young children. The intent of the TA is to assist a state team in addressing the financing, policy, diagnosis and treatment of very young children with mental health concerns within their state. Texas has applied to send a team inclusive of: Stephanie Ruben - Executive Director for Texans Care for Children, Sadie Funk - Executive Director of First3Years, Tamela Griffin with Medicaid Policy, Fred Cardenas from Family Services of San Antonio and Dana McGrath - ECI Director. Medicaid and a practitioner were required as part of the team which Tamela and Fred fill. If there is funding and support for additional members, a representative from TEA and Ramah Leith, the Director of LAUNCH were recommended to join the team.
- e. Suspension and Expulsion Cross-Walk Matrix: Judy and Holly have been meeting with Texans Care for Children on the issues of suspension and expulsion. The group has created the Suspension and Expulsion Cross-walk Matrix which provides an overview of the policies, supports and efforts by key early childhood programs in addressing suspension and expulsion. The group has worked with Jacquie Porter – Pre-K Director at TEA, Stephanie Kruger- Bonnet from TWC, Jeannie Young from DFPS Child Care Licensing, and Alferma Giles from the Texas Head Start Collaboration Office. The matrix is in its final form and will be used to provide information, identify gaps and increase collaboration among the differing early childhood programs in addressing suspension and expulsion of very young children. The crosswalk matrix will be shared with the TLECC group when completed.
- f. Save-the-Dates for LAUNCH supported trainings: Holly reported the following dates for upcoming trainings:
  - IY Basics will be held April 4th-6th, of which the application for participants will be sent February 16<sup>th</sup> and will be due February 28<sup>th</sup>. All applications will be reviewed for goodness of fit by the state team and participants will receive their notification of acceptance by March 6<sup>th</sup>. This will ensure timeliness in participants making travel arrangements if needed.
  - CSEFEL Part 1 will be held May 9th-10th and will address Level II and Level III of the First3Years Endorsement system.
  - CSEFEL Part 2 is tentatively scheduled for the week of September 17th-21<sup>st</sup>. This training will be a Train-the-Trainer (TOT) event.
  - MHC Provider and TOT training is scheduled to be a back to back training which is scheduled for August 21-24<sup>th</sup>.

- Ages and Stages Questionnaire TOT is scheduled for September 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> in Austin at the Omni Southpark hotel.
  - TLECC members were asked to review a draft document of all known conference and training dates between March 2018 and October 2018 to see if there were any conflicting events with the listed trainings above. Kim Kofron reported the Texas Association for the Education of Young Children is scheduled for August 1-3 in Dallas, Texas and the Children’s Learning Institute is scheduled for June 19<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> in Arlington, Texas. Julie Steel commented that the BHI conference is scheduled for August 20-24<sup>th</sup> and though it has not been publicly announced it may impact participation for the MHC training that is being planned the same week.
- g. Evaluation Updates:
- Key Takeaways from Year 2 Annual Report – Erica reported on the key findings from the Year 2 data that was submitted to SAMHSA including the number of children screened. 89.9% of those screened received a follow-up and intended to use those services, and 99.4% were satisfied with those services. In addition, Erica reported IY data was limited due to the small sample size, but one of the most important findings was an increase in more consistent disciplinary strategies.
  - Progress toward proposed grant goals for Year 3 – Erica reviewed the progress towards year 3 goals after the first quarter. Findings include Screening and Parent Cafés to be on track with goals. MHC and IY did not have data to add.
  - Types of Referrals Made in Year 3 Screening – Erica also discussed the types of referrals made after the first quarter data which included referrals to: public mental health providers (250 referrals), educational providers (1 referral), Head Start (2 referrals), and internal referrals (1).

## VII. **HOPE Grant Opportunity** (Ramah Leith)

Ramah reported that there is an additional technical assistance opportunity that is being made available through funding by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The HOPE grant will work with states and local communities to generate progress toward equitable outcomes for children prenatal to five and their families. HOPE stands for Harnessing Opportunities for Positive, Equitable Early Childhood Development. The funder is requesting cross sector teams at both the state and local level to apply for this technical assistance opportunity to increase access to services and change policy in addressing disparities. The first step is to complete a survey of interest in applying by March 8<sup>th</sup>. If accepted, applicants will receive an invitation to submit a full application. Up to eight community coalitions will be awarded \$80,000 over an 18 month period and up seven states could receive \$200,000 over a 24 month period. Ramah surveyed other state agencies to see if they had an interest in applying to reduce cross-over. No barriers arose and Ramah moved to have DSHS Maternal Child Health apply using the TLECC as the state coalition. TLECC members supported this notion.

## VIII. **Closing**



- a. Ramah closed the meeting and announced the next meeting for May 17<sup>th</sup> 2018 from 1pm-5pm. A reminder to expansion communities – the All Community Meeting is scheduled for May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2018.