

Texas LAUNCH Early Childhood Council (TLECC)
 Meeting Minutes
 February 16, 2017



In Attendance:

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Patricia Martinez	Director, Technical Assistance and Child Care Texas Workforce Commission	Patricia.martinex@twc.state.tx.us

Start Time: 1:10PM

- I. Welcome and Introductions lead by Ramah Leith
 - a. Members introduced themselves and the organizations they represent as well as sharing how they liked to reduce stress or recharge.

- II. TIEMH and Aliviane Update lead by Holly Gurslin and Molly Lopez
- a. Site Visits – Fort Worth visit occurred on 1/20/17 with a focus on strategic planning. Discussed LAUNCH Academy and attended their larger Early Childhood Council meeting. Informed them about state and national context of Texas LAUNCH. Met with the evaluation team to talk about how their evaluation efforts can flow with the state evaluation plans.
 - b. Upcoming visits – Will be visiting with San Antonio on 2/23/17 with a focus on planning. Team will shadow Tarah Newsham in her mental health consultation work, met with workforce partner Voices for Children, and address work plan. A visit to Ysleta del Sur Pueblo is planned in the third quarter.
 - c. Incredible Years (IY) Training – Will be hosting the IY Parents and Babies May 8-9th in Austin with a cap of 25 participants. Logistics document passed out to all members requesting participation. Feedback requested via email to Holly.Gurslin@austin.utexas.edu by March 15. Invitations will be sent to a broader audience after communities and state agencies have had a chance to enroll. Flyer will be re-distributed with minutes.
 - d. IY Certification – TIEMH will pay the fee to move 6 trainers into certification (2 from each community) which span across the grant. Each leader will submit 2 videos of a group session and receive feedback to move towards certification. In addition, there will be 4 coaching calls with the IY group.
 - e. Local Lead – Christina Figueroa from Aliviane, Inc. has left Texas LAUNCH; we thank her for all of her work. PL Leadership is in the process of interviewing for a new Early Childhood Coordinator. The job description was offered to any interested member in case they want to pass it along to ideal candidates.
 - f. Health Disparities Webinar – TIEMH will host a webinar on 3/1/17 from 10-12pm open to PL communities, council members, and early childhood stakeholders. Flyers were distributed to members during meeting to pass along to their network. Shannon Moreno from the office of CEDD will join as guest speaker. Webinar will address what health disparities means, why providers should care, and how to target disparities. Flyer will be re-distributed with minutes.
 - g. Project LAUNCH (PL) Evaluation Plan – SAMHSA asked for a thorough evaluation plan written to address all PL strategies. SAMHSA provided positive feedback with minor recommended changes. Members of the TLECC who are interested can provide feedback on the plan when it posts to the TIEMH website; the plan is currently in internal review processes. An email will be sent out to explain timeline.
 - h. Screening Data – TIEMH reviewed collective data from PL activities to date including total screened, gender division, age division, types of screenings used, and types of referrals made. Data offered is in the preliminary stages as communities are just beginning to enter data into the collective system. It was noted that some children are receiving multiple screenings. Members of the council noted their interest in the

distribution of referrals made, as well as needing more information about some of the referrals types, i.e. what does "Private Practice" mean – what services are offered?

- i. Communication Data – TIEMH is working to lead efforts in communication and social marketing including the creation of a communication plan. A Facebook page was launched within the last month and all members were requested to "Like" the page. New LAUNCH newsletter has been going out monthly since December – members were asked to share the newsletter with their broader stakeholders and council members. Email Holly.Gursslin@austin.utexas.edu if people are interested in receiving the newsletter.
- III. Ysleta Del Sur Pueblo (YDSP) Community Update lead by Linda Wiley
- a. Work Plan – YDSP spent several months creating a work plan surrounding the PL strategies and implementation. Key collaborations include: Tuy Pathu Early Learning Center (TP-ELC), Tuy Pathu Indian Pre-K (TP-PK), Bright Stars Day Care, YDSP Department of Behavioral Health (DBH), YDSP Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), and ECI.
 - b. ECI – new collaboration has elicited 3 successful referrals. Prior to PL, there were no tribal children receiving services from ECI. A training was offered by ECI to tribal daycare staff on services, referral process, and developmental milestones.
 - c. Other Collaborations – are all verbal agreements at this time due to the nature of the relationship with the YDSP Empowerment Center.
 - d. Screening – continues in TP-ELC, TP-PK, and Bright Stars. An ASQ training will be hosted on 3/14/17 for teachers and providers from all key partners listed above and broader tribal community.
 - e. IY – started first round in October and due to holidays and parent scheduling, will be finishing in February with 6 participants from TP-ELC. All participants are also teachers and are demonstrating ability to take learned skills into the classroom as well as home. Some challenges highlighted include parents schedules, children's illness (family needs), and limited participants. Successes include parents asking to continue to meet post completion of class.
 - i. Stephanie Norton commented that this could be a good launching point for a parent-lead organization. Parents who graduate IY could then feed into the parent group. Next IY class will focus on parents from DBH who are identified as high risk.
 - f. Parent Cafés (PC) – will be hosting PC with El Paso Project LAUNCH Council with volunteered help from Christina Figueroa. Most council members are also parents and other parents from the tribal community have been invited to participate to experience a PC.
 - g. Mental Health Consultation – local lead attending TP-PK three times a week for teacher/classroom support teaching on nurturing relationships, and emotional literacy. Looking to provide child-focused MHC however working to build rapport with resistant caregivers.
 - h. YDSP Young Tribal Wellness Council – local lead requested membership guidance and support on developing local council. Council

has met a few times with inconsistent participation and dates. Next meeting scheduled for 2/23/17.

- IV. Fort Worth Tarrant County MHMR Community Update lead by Laura Kender and Stephanie Norton
- a. New staffing – Stephanie Norton will be directing some of the LAUNCH projects; Emily Calk is a new Early Intervention Specialist – her role will be helping with child care center initiatives; Sarah Branch, LMFT - will begin helping with mental health consultation and clinical leadership
 - b. Parent Cafés – have completed 2 in the Polytechnic area and 1 in the Las Vegas Trail area with positive evaluations from both sites. Parents who have participated have shown interest and can start stepping up to lead table conversations.
 - i. Evaluation – FW has decided to add an additional evaluation piece to Parent Cafés examining the protective factors.
 - c. Incredible Years – 2 cohorts of families have completed the program. FW collaborated with Child Care Associates and co-facilitate with them to lead both cohorts in the Toddler curriculum. The third cohort is scheduled to begin next week. Leaders are providing home visits when parents miss a session.
 - d. Workforce Development
 - i. LAUNCH Academy – community-wide workforce development strategy for equipping childcare settings. MHMR partnered with Camp Fire First Texas to target childcare centers in Ft Worth. The LAUNCH Academy will run 5 sessions, every other Wednesday, 2-1/2 hour morning session for childcare directors. Academy to host 40 directors and are currently in the application process. Center selected will be those who are eager to learn about the areas and are committed to all 5 sessions. There will be multiple partners presenting at each session. After the academy, each center will be paired for support around the different components with a Project LAUNCH staff and receive consultation and training. MHMR noted they receive the least amount of ECI referrals from childcare centers, so they wanted to create partnerships, teach them to be able to screen; and build the quality of the existing centers. Childcare centers have been paired down by geographical area. Camp Fire has a great reputation.
 1. Jeannie Young – reported that childcare centers are going to have to have a suspension and expulsion prevention plan through the new childcare standards, which will help make the argument for training and support. More details to come on an upcoming webinar.
 - ii. Infant Mental Health Endorsements – initiative with employees to get their IMH endorsement; summarized the endorsement through First3Years and reported that 22 employees successfully earned their Endorsement.

- e. Planning for Sustainability – how they are planning to sustain all of their work; knew that they wanted a broader system to establish their early childhood work; wanted to have a front door with a full array of partners and providers. FW-MHMR reported their receipt of a new HOPES grant, which will work in tandem with PL funding to support service delivery.
 - f. Areas for development:
 - i. Screening - delayed on screening process because of LAUNCH academy
 - ii. Data and Evaluation - integrating a new data system to track families/children across services and reduce multiple data entry for different funders
 - iii. Mental Health Consultation will be delayed because of LAUNCH academy and new process needs to be created
- V. San Antonio Community Update lead by Fred Cardenas
- a. Mental Health Consultation (MHC) – primary focus with 2 centers. All referred children are receiving the ASQ screenings. Current 16 referrals. Fred Cardenas and Tarah Newsham participated in Parent-child Interactive Therapy training last week and will work to integrate this into MHC work using the skills in home visitation models. Interns are also being integrated into SA services as well with supervision and training.
 - b. Workforce Development – in collaboration with Voices for Children, Family Services trained providers in 2 sessions, each with 30 participants. From those trainings, 2 childcare centers were recruited for limited consultation follow-up at their centers. Due to difficulty with parent recruitment for IY, these two new childcare center partners may be targeted for parent recruitment.
 - c. Local Council – council was created in conjunction with the Daughters of Charity Parent Council that was already in existence. Project LAUNCH stakeholders will be recruited for the next meeting.
 - d. Incredible Years – experiencing a hard time with parent recruitment for classes. SA provided a host of outreach/marketing ideas. Incentives were provided through other grant funding to increase participation. SA sought guidance from state council members.
 - i. Suggestions included: seeking parents outside of 3 partnered childcare centers, reach out to local elementary schools, utilize a Parent Café to introduce the idea of parent-education
 - e. Screening – in addition to screening all referrals for mental health consultation, Tarah Newsham has visited all 3 partnering childcare centers to work on a sharing of screening data from their classes.
 - f. Sustainability Planning – SA just received a Systems of Care grant that the city will lead. Project LAUNCH will become part of the SOC efforts in the prevention category. There will be a policy council meeting on 2/23/17 to discuss.
- VI. Mental Health (MH) Awareness Month Discussion lead by Molly Lopez – May is MH Awareness Month and council members spent a few minutes brainstorming how LAUNCH could participate in early childhood efforts. Last year the event was held at a state level on 4/30/16 with a super-

hero theme; a review of the event was presented including photos and activities. A video was shared to announce the theme for this year – a butterfly release #FlighttoFreedom. Activities could include:

- i. butterfly wing painting, face painting, social-emotional enrichment ideas, TAEYC has national materials to share, stickers, pipe cleaners, butterfly-making activity from coffee filters, educational materials such as a screening psycho-education document and developmental milestone charts, ECI growth charts and TCMHMR Red Flags brochures.

etc. For marketing council members discussed a social media presents with consistent messaging. Molly Lopez led discussions around shared messaging on social-emotional wellness. TAEYC reported they have a theme per day to message and could partner with this event to share that messaging. Email correspondence will continue this conversation and participation later.

- VII. Texans Care for Children Presentation lead by Diane Ewing
 - a. Texans Care for Children – focus on all children’s issues, health, mental wellbeing, child protection, early childhood, juvenile justice. Diane Ewing works across the early childhood, health, and mental well-being.
 - b. Maternal and children’s health – perinatal depression; pushing for preventative and preconception care; prenatal care, and in child well-visits. Between 5 and 25% of moms will experience postpartum depression.
 - i. Increase screening – family practice and during child well-visits
 - ii. Trainings and referrals – website that helps guide families to resources
 - iii. Access to care – increasing the workforce; making peer support available
 - c. Early Childhood Intervention – report on state of ECI; decline in funding for ECI resulting in reduced enrollment, despite population growth. Texas ranks 45th in nation for access to ECI; existing budget proposal has budget at the level from previous year, does not fund any growth
 - d. Home Visiting Program for Prevention – cuts in plan for Home Visiting, could reduce effort, which would lower federal drawdown. Helping through Intervention and Prevention (HIP) targets children in DFPS who are pregnant teens
 - e. Preschool Suspensions and Expulsions – variety of bills with different age ranges; trying to prevent kids from being pushed out; discretionary referrals, disproportionate impact on boys, Black children, and SED family; several ISDs are responding to the research, Houston and El Paso have banned suspensions and expulsions, Dallas and Austin are starting to work on this issue; ECMH push; PBIS push; what are we putting in the teacher toolbox; what are we putting in the child toolbox (SEL)
- VIII. Workforce Development Brainstorm – tabled due to time limitation.
- IX. Set next meeting & Adjournment lead by Ramah Leith – the next meeting will be held Thursday May 18 from 1-5pm in Morton 100. Outlook

invitations have been sent for future meetings. During the next meeting, workgroups will continue their logic model creations.