

Texas LAUNCH State Workgroup Meeting
Meeting Minutes
February 4, 2016

In Attendance:

Ramah Leith, Kelsey Anderson, Angela Hobbs-Lopez, Manda Hall- DSHS
Kassi Longoria, Heather Thorp, Sophia Strother- DFPS
Patricia Martinez- TWC
Kim Kother- Texas AEYC
Tamela Griffin, Sherri Hammack- HHSC
Jean Origer, Dana McGrath- DARS/ECI
Holly Gursplin, Erica Shapiro, Molly Lopez, Laura Stevens- TIEMH
Josette Saxton- Texans Care for Children
Carolina Gonzalez, Christina Figueroa- Aliviane
Anna Silva- Ysleta Del Sur

Start time: 1:05pm

- I. Welcome and Introduction (Ramah Leith)
Attendees introduced themselves and provided their professional affiliations.

- II. Nine Whys Activity (Molly Lopez)
Attendees discussed their fundamental purpose and goals for their work. Responses included the following: keep family perspective in the work, families want to feel competent and successful in raising kids, leave the next generation off better, and give everyone an equal playing field. A preliminary mission statement was generated based on the responses: We exist to support the success and wellness of young children and their families throughout Texas.

- III. Texas Project LAUNCH Expansion Overview (Ramah Leith)
An explanation of the expansion grant was provided. The grant was funded for approximately \$680,000 per year by SAMHSA beginning October 1, 2015, and will continue for four years. The expansion will apply to three communities: Ysleta del Sur in the El Paso area, San Antonio, and Fort Worth. A contract is being finalized for Ysleta del Sur and an RFP will be released to identify partners within the other two communities. Contracts are expected to be sent out in March and finalized by early May.

- IV. Aliviane and Project LAUNCH (Christina Figueroa and Carolina Gonzalez)
Christina and Carolina provided information about Aliviane's original implementation of Project LAUNCH. There was a focus on the social emotional learning of children and building a council to serve as a bridge between families and services. With regards to the five core strategies of Project LAUNCH, results of implementation at Aliviane revealed the following:

- a. Early childhood screening: There was an increased provider knowledge of childhood mental health, as well as increased parent knowledge of their child's development and mental health needs.
 - b. Mental health consultation: they worked in conjunction with child care settings to provide mental health consultations to children and families, and provided trainings and presentations on resiliency, ADHD, and early childhood development, among other topics.
 - c. Family strengthening: Aliviane received additional funding through DSHS to continue the Incredible Years family strengthening program. Incredible Years was shown to decrease parental stress, increase family protective factors, and increase parental time spent with children. It was implemented in schools, day cares, libraries, early care education centers, and community centers.
 - d. Integration of behavioral health into primary care settings: They created a goal of having consultants housed with pediatricians. Pediatric residents were trained to screen for early childhood behavioral health.
 - e. Home visiting: Results indicated increased protective factors for families and reduced family stress levels.
 - f. Young Child Wellness Council: They partnered with local and state organizations to create the council. The council worked to promote early childhood behavioral health around the community. They developed an app accessible to families that provided information for various services.
- V. Texas LAUNCH Expansion Strategies (Molly Lopez)
Texas LAUNCH will focus on four of the strategies outlined by Project LAUNCH: early childhood screening, enhanced parenting skills, mental health consultation, and building early childhood competency in the workforce. It was noted that mental health consultation will not be required of the communities, but will be supported for communities who are interested. The ASQ-3 and ASQ-SE will be used for the early childhood screenings. For family strengthening, both Incredible Years and Parent Cafés will be used.
- VI. Evaluation (Erica Shapiro)
Erica presented on the evaluation plans for Project LAUNCH, including SAMHSA required metrics, as well as plans for state and local evaluations. Erica also discussed specific measures that will be utilized, what data will be collected, and service goals. A question was raised regarding workforce development data tracking and one measured by tracking people who earn different levels of early childhood mental health certifications.
- VII. Council Requirements (Ramah Leith)
MOUs will be going out to partners on the council soon and will include agreements for participation on the council and providing guidance on the grant. Directors of departments will more than likely be signing the MOUs, but it has not yet been made clear, and signed MOUs will be needed before next meeting. The council will be required to recruit parents to serve. Quarterly meetings will be held, with the next meeting expected for late May. Sophia Strother suggested combining the next council meeting with the PIP conference, as it would

be good for networking and disseminating information. Sherri Hammack provided information about the consolidation of councils, including where it makes sense to place this council. She will provide more information as it comes.

VIII. Planning (Molly Lopez)

Molly explained that expansion plan needs to be in partnership with communities, and will be an ongoing and changing document. Communities have already done the ground work and have infrastructure to support the implementation, and Project LAUNCH will build on what currently exists. There will be a focus on behavioral health disparities, and help will be needed from council members in getting data about current disparities.

IX. Asset Mapping (Molly Lopez)

a. DFPS

- i. Screening: protective factors survey
- ii. Family Strengthening: PIP, strengthening youth and families, Navigate Life Texas, Help & Hope, regional parent networks
- iii. MH consultation: STAR
- iv. Workforce Development: PIP, THV Training Institute, Texas Prevention Network, home visitor mini-conferences, community impact meeting, childcare licensing resource library

b. DSHS

- i. Screening: AET screening portal, EPSDT/Texas Health Steps, SBHCS
- ii. Family Strengthening: Parent-to-Parent, Children with Special Health Care Needs SP Community based contractors, Mental Health and Substance Abuse Division-SAP-YP provide family strengthening curricula, Mental Health and Substance Abuse Division- Children's Mental Health Unit/Local Mental Health Authority Nurturing Parenting, websites (NLT, parent companion, speak your mind, PDFT), FPP WG- Title V, life course approach tools
- iii. Mental Health consultation: Local Mental Health Authorities- evaluation and treatment, parent-child interaction therapy
- iv. Workforce Development: Texas Health Steps, LEND, Residency- state hospitals/LMHA, at-risk (Kognito)-teachers, Mental Health and Substance Abuse Division

c. DARS/ECI

- i. Screening: link to Ages and Stages Questionnaire on DARS-ECI website, usage of the Battelle assessment
- ii. Family Strengthening: family strengthening at core of ECIs support/services (coach, family centered, relationship based), local programs can/may provide individual parent support groups
- iii. MH consultation: services include behavioral intervention counseling services- help staff work with families to promote social and emotional learning, help families who are experiencing stress and mental health issues work on their relationship with their child

- iv. Workforce Development: support ECI enrolled children in early childcare settings, website has archived webinars, SSIP
 - d. Others
 - i. Screening: policy development, communication, Healthy Child Care Texas-Child Care Health Consultation as resource for referrals
 - ii. Family Strengthening: policy, communications
 - iii. MH consultation: policy, communications, Healthy Child Care Texas- child care health consultants
 - iv. Workforce Development: Texas Association for the Education of Young Children (AEYC) state conference to provide ECI training, San Antonio AEYC, Fort Worth AEYC, Paso del Norte AEYC- all have local conferences, policy development, communications
 - e. Head Start
 - i. Screening: working with state efforts to collect data regarding early childhood programs and child outcomes
 - ii. Family Strengthening: selected based on the needs in our state in the area of family and community engagement
 - iii. MH consultation: selected based on the needs in our state in the area of mental health
 - iv. Workforce Development: support the expansion and access of high quality, workforce and career development opportunities for staff
- X. Wrap-Up and Next Steps (Ramah Leith)

Next council meeting will be May 24th from 1:00 – 5:00 pm in Brown Heatly Room 1410. There may be an email or survey sent out between this meeting and next meeting to get feedback on expansion planning.