

Texas LAUNCH Early Childhood Committee  
 Meeting Minutes  
 November 16, 2017



In Attendance:

Department of State Health Services (DSHS) Title V-Maternal and Child Health (MCH) and Children with Special Health Care Needs (CSHCN)		
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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 year are documented in the attached slides.
  - a. Family Strengthening
    - i. The workgroup has been gathering information on evidence-supported parenting practices, especially those supported by state agencies. Julie Steed surveyed substance use disorder treatment providers and identified the practices they are using, and also gathered information on some additional practices being used in other states.
    - ii. Strategies for Year 3 will focus on communicating the availability of family strengthening programs, and ways to expand Incredible Years and Parent Cafés in a way that supports sustainability. Discussed how expansion of Parent Cafes was dependent on being able to establish trainers in the state;
    - iii. The group planned expansion for PC and IY by providing information on each program and advertising opportunities for training through existing family strengthening contractors;
    - iv. Members discussed how we may be able to survey family strengthening providers around creative strategies to overcome barriers to family participation, especially around issues of transportation, child care, missed classes, providing meals, etc.
    - v. Members also discussed possibly providing tools/ideas around recruiting participants in ways that normalize family strengthening, such as introducing in prenatal classes, information shared in labor and delivery, information shared in child CPR classes, during pediatrician first meetings; recruitment in housing authorities (counted as required community services).
  - b. Developmental Screening
    - i. The workgroup has worked on promoting THSteps OPE training through cards shared at various conferences; in addition, a mass mailing to Medicaid providers is planned. The THSteps OPE trainings have been reviewed and updated.
    - ii. The group has been researching longitudinal data systems for collection of screening data; they are finding lots of barriers but still looking for ways to integrate the various data systems in order to capture better data about screenings. FY16 Medicaid data shows that only 45% of providers report screening children.

- iii. The Parents Guide has been revised and will be promoted on the ECI and MHMR website. DSHS Maternal and Child Health is participating in an informal assessment of activities to support developmental screening that will go into a multi-state report. The CDC has released an Act Early mobile app and the workgroup is promoting it in various places.
  - iv. Next year, DSHS will be collaborating with TAEYC in preparation for FY19 contracts on training Child Care Health Consultants for ASQ TOT and planning additional meetings with agencies to coordinate opportunities with child care centers. They will continue to promote THSteps OPE modules and ASQ TOT opportunities.
- c. Workforce Development
- i. The workgroup has been identifying partners to share professional opportunities with and added a number of partners to the list. The members have been exploring the development of a toolkit to expand the use of the LAUNCH Academy model within other communities. The members have also been gathering information from a variety of workforce surveys and looking at gaps in knowledge, as well as opportunities to include questions in upcoming surveys.
  - ii. The workgroup members helped promote the opportunity for training in Mental Health Consultation. The Workforce Workgroup will be taking on supporting the expansion of MHC and strategic planning around it. The group working on MHC strategic planning will focus on 3 key areas – Parents, Providers & Education, and Policy.

#### IV. Expansion Community Program Update

- a. Ysleta del Sur Pueblo (Linda Wiley and Nancy Hisa)
- i. Successes – YDSP has now had 3 class graduations from IY; they are still on first ‘Babies Curriculum’ class. The team has collaborated with Dept. of Health and will be hosting first Parent Café on Monday; the state LAUNCH team will be there to participate. YDSP established a policy requiring parent engagement for families in several pre-K and child care programs, with participation in IY as one way of meeting this requirement.
  - ii. Challenges – they are still having some challenges with attendance in IY, usually related to something going on with children (e.g., illness, activity scheduled).
  - iii. BH Disparities – still working with Dept. of Health and Dept. of Behavioral Health; working to create a survey, but they are examining who should be leading that work.
  - iv. Year 3 Plans – YDSP is looking to build a sustainable continuum of services, including increasing collaboration with Dept. of Health and Dept. of Behavioral Health. Linda will be attending prenatal classes and presenting on IY, and they want to implement the Edinburg screening with moms attending postnatal appointments. They are also working on incorporating some cultural aspects into the IY and PC programs. With carryforward funding, they are planning to work with F3Y to provide training that will support staff to get their endorsement; bringing in TBRI overview training to the providers with the goal of having someone certified in Year 4; and hoping to bring in training for infant toddler teachers on developmentally appropriate practices.
- b. San Antonio (Fred Cardenas and Tarah Glover)

- i. Successes - FSA completed their first round of IY; Tarah finished serving 29 kids with MHC; she is now conducting some transition visits to bring consultation into elementary schools. They were able to provide updated ASQ screening tools in one setting, and trained 218 providers on four SEL topics. They have been collaborating with *Salud America* who will be doing a documentary on health disparities and will highlight a family who has been participating in MHC.
  - ii. Challenges – IY recruitment has been challenging. The Kronkosky Foundation has funded 25 organizations to do parenting programs so the community has had a lot of access. Families are used to 6-8 sessions, so some are hesitant to commit to the longer IY model. But funding has decreased recently, so there may be increasing interest.
  - iii. BH Disparities – focused on high risk neighborhoods; and generally training Hispanic teachers/providers and serving mostly Hispanic families. They are beginning to expand to the northern side of the county with a greater proportion of families identifying as Black.
  - iv. Year 3 – FSA will be expanding LAUNCH activities to 1 or 2 new partners. They are also exploring other options for recruitment into IY and MHC; they are also looking at opportunities to make changes to policies supporting the children being served.
- c. Fort Worth (Stephanie Norton)
  - i. Successes – MHMRTC held a LAUNCH Academy with 40 child care directors; they have recently gotten child care providers to submit screeners, which has been challenging. They are implementing IY with Child Care Associates (will be expanding to 20+ centers), and were able to implement Parent Cafes with homeless shelters and refugee families.
  - ii. Challenges – It has been a challenge to get screeners submitted, but MHMRTC is looking at the larger need in the community for data collection. They have also had issues with provider turnover after training. They also identified the barrier of a lack of Medicaid coverage for screening if it was missed at the appropriate visit; they are also exploring Medicaid support for SEEKS (a screening for potential adverse events), which is being implemented in Cook Children’s Hospital.
  - iii. BH Disparity – the community is rallying around Las Vegas Trail zip code, which is a declining neighborhood (76116). There was a town hall meeting and the development of a task force. Staff members are serving on all four subcommittees (health and wellness, social services, education, safety).
  - iv. Year 3 – MHMRTC will be replicating the Launch Academy in the Spring with 40 new directors. They are establishing the ASQ Enterprise System to collect information on screenings. They are also working to address staff turnover by establishing quarterly goals and plans to address those goals with partner agencies, which will also help them ensure they are fully utilizing resources.

V. Aliviane Update (Holly Gurslin shared for Judy Willgren)

- a. Updates – Aliviane/TIEMH will be conducting a site visit at YDSP November 20-21<sup>st</sup>, and conducted ASQ Trainings in Fort Worth and San Antonio, with more planned in the future. Aliviane/TIEMH has been working to develop a tool, a Suspension and Expulsion Matrix, to identify what is happening around the state

to address changes to policies around suspension and expulsions of young children.

- b. Year 3 – Aliviane will be continuing to provide technical assistance to communities and provide ASQ trainings. Aliviane is also planning to host two trainings from the Center for Social Emotional Foundations for Early Learning (CSEFEL) in the spring.
- VI. TIEMH Updates (Holly Gurslin and Erica Shapiro)
- a. Year 2 Accomplishment – TIEMH has distributed a year’s worth of newsletters, which will now move to quarterly, as well as establishing a Facebook page. Two site visits for each community have occurred. Trainings were provided on ASQ, IY Babies Curriculum, and behavioral health disparities for young children. Consultation calls were held for IY to support certification. Sixty ASQ kits were distributed to support community partners implementing this strategy.
  - b. Since the last meeting, Texas LAUNCH was highlighted on the UT School of Social Work homepage in a blog. A Mental Health Consultation training was hosted, provided by Neal Horen of Georgetown University. This was followed by a strategic planning event to focus on how Texas could build infrastructure (e.g., training, financing, policy) to support expansion of MHC. The state team also held a retreat to focus on planning for FY18 and FY19 and building sustainability for the activities.
  - c. Year 3 – TIEMH will be attending the SAMHSA grantee meeting, and have applied to have one of our TLECC parent representative and a staff member attend a SAMHSA Parent Leadership meeting in February. TIEMH plans to continue to provide trainings on the ASQ, support further implementation of IY, begin evaluation of MHC, and collaborate with First3Years on workforce development activities. Year 3 will include a number of planned trainings, including an IY Basics, MHC, MHC Train-the-trainer, ASQ Train-the-trainer, CSEFEL trainings, and an expansion community meeting.
  - d. Holly shared some information on MHC to be sure members had an understanding of the practice and the areas we will be planning around for the future.
  - e. Evaluation – Erica reviewed the proposed goals for Year 1 and 2 and our accomplishments in each strategy. She shared where kids are being referred to – mostly to public mental health providers, with physical or speech therapy the second most reported. She indicated that most children referred were able to access services and most were satisfied with the services that they received and planned to continue with them. A few families felt the referral was unnecessary or were placed on a waitlist and therefore had not received the service at the time of the follow-up.
- VII. Hurricane Harvey Discussion
- a. TLECC members were invited to share information about how their agency and/or contractors were impacted by Hurricane Harvey, ways in which they have responded to the needs of staff and/or families, and any plans for further support.
  - b. ECI – Jean shared that a lot of programs were really devastated and a lot of facilities were impacted. Most have begun serving families again, but staffing has dwindled. Many are seeing families in shelters or other locations, because families are not in their homes. ECI has sent out information/resources, that they have received, to staff (both directed at staff and families). They have also been

examining opportunities to adjust state rules and policies to see if they could be lightened and sent to the Governor for consideration; federal rules are more difficult to waive. They are likely not quite up to capacity yet. Jean will do a reach out to staff to find out what they and the parents that they see would benefit from, with the goal of providing some additional resources if needed.

- c. PEI – Sophia Strother indicated that they want to be sure to remember how staff have been impacted and respond to some of their concerns. They also forwarded information to providers and left it case-by-case to provide additional resources if providers contacted them. They have allowed contractors to adjust budgets to help address impact of Harvey and those will be submitted soon. They are also being flexible around contractual obligations. Laura Kender indicated that she participated in meetings with the ECI directors and that the impact is still really raw, with many continuing reminders, and support is definitely still needed for staff. She also reflected the importance of sharing the resources statewide because of families who were sheltering in other communities. Laura also shared that she was really impressed by Child Watch within shelters, but that it was limited because of staffing issues and that this may be an opportunity to expand/build upon for the future.

#### VIII. Closing

- a. Next meeting: February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018, 1pm-5pm