

Texas LAUNCH



Linking Actions for Unmet Needs in Children's Health

Workgroup Updates – May 16, 2019

Developmental Screening

- Texans Care for Children shared the results of their Medical Provider Developmental Screening Assessment and [screening map](#) that includes information on screening rates across Texas and has the ability to track trends over time.
- DSHS Title V shared information on a possible collaboration between PDS, Title V MCH and UT-Houston's [ActEarlyTexas!](#) website platform that could be utilized as a statewide data hub for screening, resources, and referral.
- Group strategically participated in the Pritzker planning grant state collaboration of TexProtects, Texans Care for Children, and Children at Risk, called Prenatal to Three (PN3). The focus of the grant is to create a policy strategic plan identifying gaps in policies for children pre-natal to three in the areas of developmental screening, early intervention, and universal family connects.
- Group met with Rhode Island and Washington state staff to hear lessons learned and successes around development of a statewide screening platform.
- The Healthy Child Care Texas- Social Emotional Development (HCCT-SED) grant trained 22 providers in the FW area in the ASQs. Those providers, under the support of TAEYC will support 50 childcare centers with training/implementation and TA.
- PEI provided an update on home visiting screening data and benchmarks for the state, finding a significant decrease in children with positive screens with no apparent cause. PEI will continue to explore this notion and share data finds with the group.
- TEA & TWC shared another version of a mockup of the ECDataWorks program designed in a coordinated effort with TEA and TWC through a grant from the Kellogg foundation. The ECDataWorks program gathers data provided by child care centers (primarily TRS providers) and makes it searchable providing the following resources:
 - Ready Communities-Helps identify early childhood educators (public K, pre-K and TRS providers) in the areas and provides resources on how to connect with them.
 - Ready Schools- Provides information on the capacity of schools to provide high quality early learning opportunities and educator training.
 - Ready Students-Identifies the needs of students entering kindergarten in the area.
 - System Alignment-Provides information on how the early childhood system in a specific area is preparing to support early learners form infancy to kindergarten.
- TEA was awarded 71% of the Grant request for Preschool Development Grant and has begun activities outlined in their submitted plan including the dissemination of a state needs assessment and creation of a strategic plan via the Early Learning Council (ELC). The grant reinstated the ELC, a group appointed by the Governor to address the educational and developmental needs of children. DSHS MCH Child State Coordinator was appointed a role within the ELC as well as Texans Care for Children, CCL, TWC, PEI, and TEA. ELC efforts are being supported by new Quad Director Lauren Zbyszinski (Lauren.Zbyszinski@tea.texas.gov), and Early Childhood Education Program Specialist Cody Summerville (Cody.Summerville@tea.texas.gov).
- DSHS Title V Maternal Child Health will be releasing their upcoming needs assessment which will include questions on development screening for the first time.

Texas LAUNCH



Linking Actions for Unmet Needs in Children's Health

Mental Health Consultation:

- Workgroup has met several times to review drafts and framework options for a recommended list of Texas MHC Competencies. Group identified the need for simplicity, clarity and ability to share with policy leaders.
- Group completed an online survey to address definitions of competencies, titles for professionals at different tiered roles within the MHC framework and creating consensus around competency areas.
- Partnering with SSW-MHTTC grant to support MHC curriculum building.

Suspension/Expulsion Workgroup:

- Group finalized the [*Building a Comprehensive State Policy Strategy to Prevent Expulsion from Early Learning Settings, 2nd Edition*](#) provided by the State Capacity Building Center (SCBC).
- Group completed strategic plan which includes short and long-term goals.
 - Three subcommittees have been created based on strategic plan:
 - Data: this group is focused on gathering data on childcare ratios, expulsions, and policies addressing suspension and expulsion, another group
 - Family Engagement: this group is in the beginning stages of identifying a framework to compete their activities in and engaging stakeholders and family partners
 - Workforce: this group is focused on compiling all state resources available to the workforce to enhance quality of provision and addressing access concerns.

** Next Steps for all workgroups will focus on sustainability and leadership transition.