

Texas LAUNCH



Linking Actions for Unmet Needs in Children's Health

Workgroup Updates – August 22, 2019

Developmental Screening

- DSHS MCH has a new Program Coordinator (Audrey Young) and Child Health Coordinator (Claire Niday). Audrey Young will finish out work with Texas LAUNCH grant for continuity of TA support.
- DSHS MCH has released their Title V Needs Assessment (TVNA) that occurs every five years. This workgroup recommended developmental screening questions to be added which were. The TVNA is in the process of completing stakeholder interviews, focus groups, and compiling data responses from the needs assessment.
- TEA-PDG grant has funded the [ActEarlyTexas!](#) website platform to increase capacity for access to developmental screening tools. LAUNCH expansion site, MHMR of Tarrant County, has been utilizing the Enterprise Data system and has released an RFP for a larger software platform for accessing development screening tools. The focus would be for the new software to have the capacity to speak to Pediatric electronic health records and have API capabilities. These two groups are meeting and working together to look at the prospect of creating one system that could support everyone's needs.
- TAEYC reports that their HCCT-SEED project has served 37 childcare centers in the Fort Worth area with training on developmental screening and TA on implementation. TAEYC will be expanding to Harris County this coming fall and will have a full year's funding to support 40 centers. Cheryl Carey is requesting links to resources for families to access once screened (ECI, Home Visiting, Medical) in the Harris County area as well as referrals of centers who are interested/invested in this type of work. The HCCT-SEED project is a five-year grant.
- The Texas Early Learning Council (TxELC) met in July to review their survey feedback and begin strategic planning. This workgroup is hoping to see developmental screening come up as a need within the plan. Focus groups will be conducted next to provide input on their strategic plan. Additionally, the Texas LAUNCH Suspension/Expulsion workgroup provided public comment at the last ELC requesting their work become part of the ELC's larger picture. The groups strategic plan includes policy work around developmental screening.
- A community wide initiative called the Infant Toddler Developmental Screening Initiative (ITDSI) is a cross systems framework that is picking up support and steam in the Fort Worth area due to action planning across systems, a proactive approach. This group will soon be changing their name to Help Me Grow North Texas to align with a national framework and TA support. The LAUNCH expansion site MHMR-TC is at the forefront of leadership for this initiative which will focus on developmental screening.
- TEA provided an update on the DataWorks analytic tool project stating that it cannot include developmental screening data at this time because they do not have the legislative authority to gather that data.

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- Workgroup is hoping to add one-two Pediatricians to get a better sense of barriers/successes around screening and obtain support.
- The leadership for this workgroup will be changing to the DSHS Maternal Child Health department as it aligns with their national outcome measures beginning in September. LAUNCH staff will meet with DSHS staff to assist with transition.

Suspension/Expulsion Workgroup:

- Group was informed that the new Quad Director [position that is paid for by TEA, TWC, DSHS, DFPS was not approved to lead efforts moving forward as all 4 agencies need to agree to this charge. The group has worked to revise their request and has resubmitted to TEA. Additionally, this group presented public comment on their strategic plan and state efforts to the Texas Early Learning Council (TxELC) to request that their work become part of the larger strategic plan or continue as a subcommittee of the larger group. The Quad Director is currently facilitating the TxELC.
- Group established the Family Engagement subcommittee led by Leonor Vargas and supported State Capacity Building Center. The group will be focusing on building a document to be released with the Matrix that is family orientated. Additionally, the group has identified a need to create common language across state agencies on family engagement.
- Staff from Texans Care for Children provided recent legislative updates that addressed childcare ratios, data collection, and full day 4-y/o pre-k funding. Texans Care has been asked to review the strategic plan to see if any new laws or legislation would affect the plan and the matrix dissemination.
- TWC has released several RFP's related to IMH and Childcare network creation. These RFP's will hope to increase quality training and supports to childcare systems and ultimately reduce suspension/expulsion rates in early years.

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