

Texas leads nation with reduction in rural, uninsured youth!

A new [Rural Health Report](#) published in June of 2017, by Georgetown University Health Policy Institute, highlights the importance of Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) access for rural areas in Texas. Relying primarily on data from the Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS), the report confirms that Texas had the largest decline in the nation for uninsured children (52,000) in small towns and rural communities. With possible upcoming changes to Medicaid/CHIP access in the legislative session, Texas runs the risk of losing critical access to life-saving treatment and protection from rising health care costs. The full report along with interactive maps showing healthcare coverage county-by-county are available at: <https://ccf.georgetown.edu/>.

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TX Children and the 2017 Legislative Session

Texans Care for Children has published their [full report](#) on the 2017 Legislative Session. The report focuses on the strengths and shortcomings for children. The report provides an overview of the session as well as reviews in the following areas: Children's Maternal Health Policy, Child Protection Policy, Early Childhood Policy, Maternal and Child Health Policy, and Youth Justice Policy. According to Texans Care for Children, “In many cases, legislators raised important issues and laid the groundwork for future progress...[yet] despite these gains, we unfortunately have to conclude that the Legislature fell far short of Texan's expectations.” The report also reviews bills within each area that were pass, vetoed, or were not passed. This report can be used in many local and state council conversations about next steps in children's issues and priorities. Please follow the link provided to access the report. <http://txchildren.org/posts/2017/6/23/recap-report-on-key-kids-issues-of-the-2017-tx-leg-session>



Conference Announcement

Registration is now open for the [Annual Zero to Three Conference](#) that will be held in San Diego, California November 29-December 1, 2017. To help you SHINE in your work, join Zero to Three in getting up to speed on the latest research in early childhood and connect with colleagues from around the world! Visit the [Zero to Three website](#) for more information.

Updates from Texas LAUNCH

Ysleta del Sur Pueblo (YDSP) – The YDSP Local Lead has graduated the second cohort of parents enrolled in the evidence-based parenting program Incredible Years (IY). YDSP will initiate two additional IY classes later this summer. In efforts to build sustainability, the Local Lead will co-facilitate the upcoming trainings with two parents who graduated from the program and have since been trained in the curriculum. The Local Lead has also found success in attending community fairs to educate parents on developmental screenings and obtain consent to conduct ASQ screenings. In community's efforts to enhance workforce development, YDSP is exploring the possibility of bringing Trust-Based Relational Intervention (TBRI) training to child care center staff.

MHMR of Tarrant County (MHMR) – MHMR is exploring the feasibility of a centralized data intake platform utilizing the *ASQ Enterprise*. The intent and purpose is to capture all developmental screening data conducted within the Ft. Worth community. MHMR is also exploring the possibility of increasing its collaboration efforts with Child Care Associates, the Head Start grantee for the community, by changing its current screening instrument to the ASQ screening tool. In addition, MHMR recently graduated three cohorts of parents receiving IY classes and will be working to recruit another group of parents in the near future. Additionally, MHMR continue to support workforce development and parent engagement through trainings on TBRI and hosting Parent Cafés.

Family Service Association of San Antonio (FSA) – FSA is graduating its first cohort of parents participating in the IY program. Additionally, the program has impacted 22 families receiving mental health consultation and supports. To enhance community developmental screening efforts, FSA has collaborated with the Daughters of Charity childcare center to utilize the latest edition of the ASQ screening tool. As part of community efforts to improve San Antonio's early childhood workforce, FSA trained 150 early childhood providers in identifying and working with children with social and emotional concerns and provided strategies on working with parents when there is an identified behavioral health issue.

Promoting Social-Emotional Development in Primary Care Ages 0-3

The National Institute of Children's Health Quality, Ariadne labs, Einhorn Family Charitable Trust, early childhood experts, and caregivers all collaborated to provide [a report](#) on integrating social-emotional development strategies into the primary care setting. The report provides data on current tools and interventions to support social-emotional and adaptability in young children across systems. Their research concluded that although there are interventions and tools that could be used in the primary care setting, a minimal number are actually being used due to a number of barriers inherent in the format of well-child visits. To address these barriers, 11 strategies were recommended to work on the reformatting of well-child visits and integrate social-emotional development tools and strategies to this setting. This report admits that no setting to date is able to address all 11 strategies, however, they do outline 5 targeted "first steps" to address in order to target interventions to promote children's socioemotional development within the well-child visit. To learn more about these strategies, how to begin this process, or how your primary care organizations can begin discussions around this important work, you can following the link to the [Texas LAUNCH page](#) to read the full report.



Announcement Area

The Center for Public Policy Priorities has recently released a [short video](#) of their executive director, Anne Beeson, summarizing the 85th Legislative Session. Anne discusses the successes and missed opportunities this year, and what is to come in the special session called by Governor Abbott.