

# Texas LAUNCH NEWS

Linking Action for Unmet Needs in Children's Health

NOVEMBER 2017 – Edition 12

Tragedy Response Resources  
Texans Care for Children New Report  
Call for Proposals...  
...and MORE!

## Student Mental Health After The Storm

Josette Saxton, Mental Health Policy Director with Texans Care for Children, authored a new report on the [mental health needs of children in schools post Hurricane Harvey](#). The report demonstrates a need to talk about and address the long-lasting effects of trauma on a child's mental health, brain development and academic performance. Trauma caused by Hurricane Harvey and its aftermath can affect students behaviors in and out of school and their overall well-being for a significant amount of time.

Students with little to no support, or whom experienced other forms of trauma are at even higher risk. Ms. Saxton quotes, "Not only do schools have a lot to gain when they support their students' mental health, but they are also well-positioned to address mental health because they're such a big part of kids' lives." In her efforts to shed light on the high stakes for supporting students, she spoke at the House Public Education Committee hearing and with the [Texas Standard](#). According to the Texas Standard, this report calls on Texas lawmakers to develop a statewide plan for addressing and measuring student trauma in schools after Harvey. Recently, Governor Abbott has named the Hurricane Harvey Task Force on School Mental Health, which is tasked with identifying resources to support the needs of children in the region. To access the report in its entirety click [here](#).



## Shooting Response Resources

(Reproduced from the National Technical Assistance Network for Children's Behavioral Health October 2017 TA Issue)

We are devastated and heartbroken by the tragedy that occurred [recently] when a gunman opened fire at a concert in Las Vegas, Nevada. Our thoughts are with the victims, their loved ones, and our colleagues at Nevada's System of Care. Below are resources to assist your communities' response to mass shootings and other violent events:

- **SAMHSA Resources:**
  - [Disaster/Distress Helpline](#)
  - [Tips for talking with and Helping Children & Youth Cope after a Disaster or Traumatic Event: A Guide for Parents, Caregivers, and Teachers](#)
  - [Incidents of Mass Violence](#)
  - [Disaster-Specific Resources](#)
- **General Resources:**
  - [Active Shooter: How to Respond](#)
  - [Effects of Traumatic Stress after Mass Violence, Terror, or Disaster](#)
- **Resources for Parents and Guardians:**
  - [Supporting Children Who Have Faced Trauma](#)
  - [Talking to Children about the Shooting](#)
  - [Restoring a Sense of Safety in the Aftermath of a Mass Shooting: Tips for Parents & Professionals](#)
  - [Parent Guidelines for Helping Youth after the Recent Shooting](#)



### Call For Proposals!!

The University of Maryland, Baltimore Training Institute is launching a call for proposals for their next training institute, July 25-28<sup>th</sup> in Washington, D.C., and will focus on *Leading Change: Integrating Systems and Improving Outcomes in Behavioral Health for Children, Youth, Young Adults, and Their Families*. To read more and/or submit a proposal please visit their [website!](#)

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## CHDI Ensuring Quality in Children's Mental Health: Certification in Evidence-Based Practices

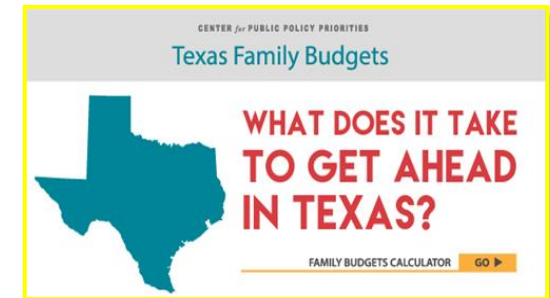
The Connecticut Child Health and Development Institute (CHDI) recently released an issue brief discussing their efforts on creating a certification process for all Evidenced-Based Practices (EBP) for children's mental health programs – reporting that this is one strategy to ensure that mental health providers are trained and equipped to deliver EBPs successfully and improving access to and quality of EBPs.

The investment in this work came after CHDI recognized that approximately 35% of clinicians trained in one EBP did not report using the EBP at all following training. This raised two important issues: one – training is insufficient for ensuring implementation and positive outcomes, and two – not all EBP's require the same level of “certification post training” which then allows providers to begin using the model. To read more about how CHDI and their collaboration with the State Department of Children and Families is working to address this issue click [here](#).

## Texas Family Budgets Calculator: What it takes to get by.

The Center for Public Policy Priorities (CPPP) has updated their Texas Family Budget Calculator. This is a great tool to help families and providers alike understand the cost of living in certain metropolitan areas and what families will need to get by. According to CPPP, the calculator lets you choose from 12 different family types, 27 metro areas and various health insurance and savings preferences to see what it takes to make ends meet.

Then the calculator computes housing, food, health coverage, child care, and transportation expenses as well as what retirement, emergency and college savings would typically cost in that metro area. Common jobs are also available for selection depending on the area listing, what those jobs pay to women versus men, and whether those jobs pay enough for families to make ends meet. Data collected by the Family Budgets Calculator has been extremely helpful by showing which metro areas are the least and most expensive, how insurance costs could be the second most costly charge to families, how difficult it can be for families to save, and the average costs of childcare. This data could be used to support community planning and needs assessments. Visit [familybudgets.org](http://familybudgets.org) to see the data for the 27 largest metro areas in Texas.



### In Case You Missed It

The SAMHSA TA Telegram published the reminder that the [Center of Excellence for Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation \(IECMHC\)](#) helps communities support the success of children by increasing access to evidence-based IECMHC. The [IECMHC toolbox](#) offers free interactive planning tools, guides, videos, and other resources to support states, tribes, and communities in their MHC efforts.

