

Texas LAUNCH NEWS

Linking Action for Unmet Needs in Children's Health

April 2018 – Edition 14

Maternal Depression & Medicaid
Family First Prevention Services Act
First3Years Regional Conference 2018
...and more!

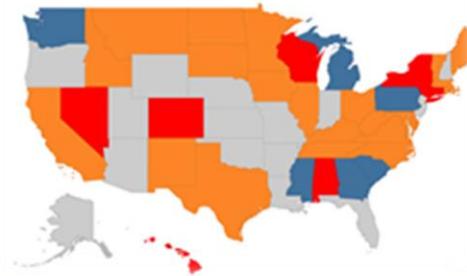
Maternal Depression Screening & Medicaid

Maternal depression can have a direct effect on a child's development, from basic brain development to behavioral outcomes later in life. Due to the significant findings and support around the relationships between maternal depression and child development, specifically in low-income women, healthcare providers can play a role in being the first point of contact to screen and identify women who are suffering and link them to appropriate treatment.

In 2016, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a clarifying briefing that explained that state Medicaid agencies could allow maternal depression screenings to be claimed as a service, for the child under the EPSDT benefit.

Since that briefing, [The National Academy for State Health Policy](#) – a nonprofit and non-partisan organization dedicated to helping states achieve excellence in health policy and practice - created maps highlighting state Medicaid policies around maternal depression screening during well-child visits and includes information on coding and reimbursement. Additionally, they created another map that highlights whether states recommended or required specific screening tools. To read the full CMS Bulletin, click [here](#). To access the maps as resources and see how Texas fares among other states, click [here](#).

Medicaid Fee for Service Policies for Maternal Depression Screening in a Well-Child Visit



Family First Prevention Services Act

The Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) was signed into law in February of 2018. This law works to address the safety of children and sustainability within their families as the rates for placement in the foster care system continue to rise. With the support of over 500 organizations, FFPSA provides new options for states and tribes to utilize Title IV-E funds toward evidenced-based and trauma-informed prevention activities, such as mental health treatment, substance abuse treatment, and in-home parenting skills. Services could be provided to a child and their families for up to a year with unlimited sessions. Service provisions would begin October of 2019 should Texas decide not to delay for two years.

For more information about the FFPSA you can watch a live stream [Facebook video](#) from the [Texans Care for Children site](#), and/or review the presentation linked [here](#) by Christine Calpin.



Regional Conference | Austin, TX

First3Years Regional Conference in Austin!

First3Years is hosting a [Regional Conference](#) in Austin May 11th! The agenda focuses on **Mental Health Consultation** and state efforts. [Registration is open](#) with opportunities for membership and vendor deals! Contact Natalie Baerwaldt with questions - nbaerwaldt@first3yearstx.org. See you there!

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Keeping Up with Fort Worth Opportunities

[The Raising of Fort Worth](#) initiative is a convening of First3Years and community stakeholders to engage advocates from business, philanthropic, education, faith-based and health sectors to champion local efforts and support local actionable steps toward quality early development and education opportunities for every child in the Fort Worth area. March 20th marked the kick-off of a series of three events featuring national renowned speakers and local business leaders. The event focused on the connection between early childhood and a strong workforce enabling the Mayor, the Fort Worth Chamber, and community to build *Strong Beginnings for a Brighter Future*. Dates for the next two events are June 28th and October 18th of 2018. To learn more about these upcoming events and First3Years, click [here!](#)

**Recognize.
Monitor.
Care.**

Help support children after TBI.

www.cdc.gov

The [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) has published a [Report to Congress entitled "The Management of Traumatic Brain Injury in Children: Opportunities for Action."](#) This report defines and describes what Traumatic Brain Injuries (TBI) are, national statistics surrounding the implication on children, gaps in services, and recommendations for treatment. TBI's affect children differently that adults in that it can hinder the child's developmental capacity and trajectory both physically and emotionally. TBI's in children and youth has become a public health issue due to high prevalence rates. According to the report, "In 2013, there were approximately 640,000 TBI-related emergency department (ED) visits, 18,000 TBI-related hospitalizations, and 1,500 TBI-related deaths among children 14 years of age, and younger." According to the report, "More than sixty-one percent of children with a moderate to severe TBI experience a disability." To learn more about traumatic brain injuries, the implications for children and child serving entities, and the recommendations for treatment you can access the full report [here](#).



CCDF State Plan Out for Comment

Texas Workforce Commission has released the [2019-2021 Child Care and Development Fund \(CCDF\) State Plan](#) and feedback can be provided at regional public forums! The full report can be access [here](#).



Texas Department of State Health Services