

Texas LAUNCH NEWS

Linking Action for Unmet Needs in Children's Health

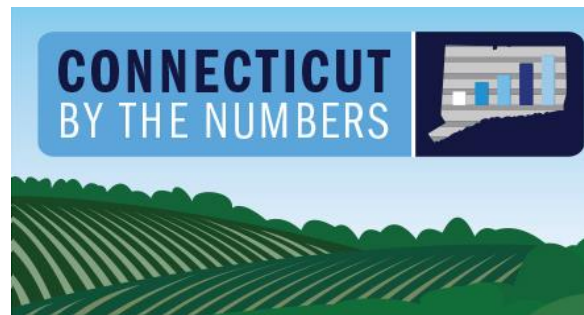


November 2018 – Edition 15

IMH Endorsement System tackling the need for a qualified infant/toddler workforce.
CPPP State of Texas Children Report,
Children's Mental Health Conference... and more!

PERSPECTIVE: A Needed Credential to Advance Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health

Evidence suggests that supporting a child's developmental and social emotional wellbeing has long-term, positive impacts on their school readiness and overall development. However, in order to support a young child's growth, one must be trained and qualified to work with this unique population. Most higher education programs that train providers to serve children and families lack training on social and emotional development and working with very young children and their caregivers. An [article](#), written by Abby Alter and Heidi Maderia, talks about how Connecticut is working to steadily address this need for a qualified workforce through a professional endorsement system. Since their purchase of the [Michigan Endorsement® system](#) in 2010, Connecticut has endorsed 56 professionals in Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health. These professionals completed specialized education, in-service training, and reflective supervision/consultation leading to endorsement in the promotion and/or practice of infant or early childhood mental health. By creating a cadre of endorsed professionals, the quality of services working to enhance and/or develop the social-emotional capacity of children 0-6 is also increasing. The article includes recommendations to the state on how to continue to address a growing field/need including: increasing funding for the endorsement system, increasing the capacity for reflective supervision and training, supporting higher education systems to include infant and early childhood education in their child and family courses, and ensuring state and/or public agencies serving children and families have an infant/early childhood mental health endorsed person on staff. To access this article: click [here!](#) To learn more about Texas' Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Endorsement, visit [First3Years](#).



CENTER for PUBLIC POLICY PRIORITIES

2018

State of Texas Children 2018

The Center for Public Policy Priorities (CPPP) will release the much-anticipated State of Texas Children report 2018, beginning with a launch in San Antonio on November 15 at the TriPoint Event Center. The event will share important child trend data on how Texas and Bexar County children are faring. This event will include speeches from Texas State Representative Diego Bernal, CPPP's Policy Director Luis Figueroa, Healthcare Ministries CEO Jaime Wesolowski and more.

Participants can expect dynamic discussions on opportunities that can support children from all financial backgrounds to succeed, as well as how our government can shape those opportunities moving forward. This event is free, open to the public and includes breakfast. Learn how to register [here](#).



32nd Annual Research & Policy Conference
on
Child, Adolescent, and Young Adult
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

[Registration is now open](#) for the Tampa Conference, which promotes research-based behavioral health services for children and their families. The conference will be held in Tampa, FL. March 3-6, 2019 attracting more than 500 researchers, policymakers, administrators, parents, and advocates. [Register](#) now for early bird specials.

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How Early Head Start Prevents Child Maltreatment

Child Trends recently published a report, in partnership with Portland University's Center for the Improvement of Child and Family Studies and Boston Children's Hospital's Brazelton Touchpoints Center that described a longitudinal study of the lasting effects of Early Head Start programming on the trajectory of a child's participation in the child welfare system. Results from the study show that EHS programs improve key factors that prevent child maltreatment, such as reducing family conflict and parenting stress; supporting emotionally warm, responsive parenting practices; and promoting children's cognitive development. The study demonstrates that children are less likely to be involved with the child welfare system by the age of 16 when these key factors are supported. You can read this interesting report [here](#).

SAMHSA 2018 CMHAD

More than ten years ago, SAMHSA created National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day (CMHAD) to bring attention to the needs of children with mental health challenges and their families. The event has highlighted best practices for treating children and brought states/communities together to reduce the misunderstanding of mental health. In 2018, the theme for the event was "Partnering for Health and Hope Following Trauma" and featured a live discussion by early childhood mental health experts accepting questions from the public. The discussion allowed the experts to share evidence-based practices helping to make child-serving systems more trauma-informed. By clicking [here](#), you can access a full report from the 2018 CMHAD events, including helpful information on trauma-informed practices and ideas for supporting a local CMHAD event. Both Fort Worth and Austin/Texas are featured, so take a look!



"The [Texas Judicial Commission on Mental Health](#) has a website that offers several important and useful resources, including the new [Texas Mental Health and Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Law Bench Book](#), [Leading Changes: Improving Courts' Response to Mental Health and Intellectual and Developmental Disability Needs](#) planning card, and the [Assessing the Mental Health and IDD Landscape by Intercept](#) planning tool."

– information shared by Tracy Levins, Policy Specialist