

# Texas LAUNCH NEWS

Linking Action for Unmet Needs in Children's Health

March 2019 – Edition 17

Success Story from MHMR-TC  
State of Babies Yearbook 2019  
Prevent Child Abuse America Conference  
...and more!

## A Parent Café Success Story From The Eyes Of A Provider

“Every Parent Café is unique, but there are some cafés that stay in your mind forever. This is the case with a Parent Café, completed in Fort Worth, where I met a mom that had just moved from Mexico. As she entered the room, I could see sadness in her eyes. She often looked down and seemed unsure of what to expect from a parent strengthening program. Because she spoke Spanish, I was her partner for the initial one-on-one activity. As this mom started telling her story, I got shivers and teary-eyed. Her story reminded me of when I moved to the United States. After our one-on-one activity, the mom commented that it seemed as though she knew me all her life, and I felt the same way, we had made a connection. Throughout the Parent Café, she was teary and I could see that she really needed this time to take care of herself. During the closing activity of the Café, she shared the word “needed”. She explained that she had been feeling extremely lonely as she did not know anyone from her new community. The mom stated that she never imagined that a Parent Café would help her so much emotionally. When the Parent Café was over, I could see a change in the way she carried herself, she looked people in the eyes and I could see that her eyes were lit up and happy. I will never forget this Parent Café, this experience, as I was reminded of how important it is to provide parents with a safe environment where they can share their struggles and make new connections with others.”

–Eloisa Oviedo, MHMR Tarrant Parent Café Facilitator



## STATE OF BABIES YEARBOOK 2019

Zero To Three and Child Trends have collaborated together to publish a [State of Babies Yearbook 2019](#) as part of their ‘Think Babies’ campaign. This yearbook compares state and national data on over sixty early childhood outcomes that affect the well-being of infants and toddlers, and can be used by policymakers and advocates to improve or create policies that improve the lives of children and their families.

The three policy areas this report focuses on includes: good health, strong families, and positive early learning experiences. According the State of Babies Yearbook 2019, states are ranked by a set of indicators and grouped into four tiers that represent their progress toward assuring access to healthcare, paid family leave, quality education and more. To learn more about the impact areas click [here](#).

To see how Texas measured up against national indicators click [here](#), or to download the entire yearbook and other resources click [here](#).



[Register now](#) for the 2019 **Prevent Child Abuse America National Conference** happening September 16-18, 2019 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The conference will examine innovative programs and practices, family-focused practices, cutting-edge research, public awareness and engagements strategies, and provide the latest thinking to help drive the field toward prevention. For more information, visit their [website](#)!



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## An Opportunity for Review

HHSC has just released an update to the [Statewide Behavioral Health Strategic Plan \(BHSP\)](#) and the [Foundation for the Intellectual and Developmental Disability \(IDD\) strategic plan](#). These plans are open for review on the [HHSC website](#).

According to HHSC, the BHSP is an update of the five-year plan to address gaps in mental health and substance use services systems. The plan documents the collaborative work of Texas state agencies to coordinate their services, resources, competencies and infrastructures to minimize duplication of efforts. Furthermore, according to HHSC, the plan hopes to enhance prevention and early intervention services, as well as, increase access to effective services.

The statewide IDD plan is in response to stakeholders recognizing the unique challenges of those with IDD and working to create a statewide plan that looks at cross-system services. The first phase of this plan outlines Texas systems addressing IDD to inform the public and create a greater awareness.

To read the entire plan click [here](#).

## Texans Care for Children

Texans Care for Children is a statewide, non-profit, non-partisan, multi-issue children's policy organization develops policy solutions, publishes research, and engages Texas community leaders to educate policymakers, the media, and the public about what works to improve the well-being of Texas children and families. Through their [blog](#), this group keeps the public up-to-date on issues regarding the well-being of Texas kids. Two recent blogs ([14 Good Bills for Texas Kids](#) & [15 More Good Bills for Texas Kids](#)) share information about child care and student mental health, maternal health, foster care, school suspensions and other bills to keep an eye on. If you want to learn more subscribe to their [email updates](#), [follow them on Twitter](#) or check out their [website](#).



## 2019 ASQ®-3 & ASQ®:SE-2 Training of Trainer Institutes

Plan now to secure your place in one of the upcoming ASQ® Training Institutes this new year happening in April, June and October of 2019 in various locations. These institutes includes instruction from an expert ASQ trainer and give you everything you need to conduct trainings in your organization. Contact [Brookes Publishing](#) to learn more!



Texas Department of State Health Services