



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services



Educate Engage Empower

2021

HHS Office of Disability
Prevention for Children
Statewide Virtual Conference

March

9, 16, 23, 30

We're excited to kick off the 2021 HHS Office of Disability Prevention for Children Statewide Virtual Conference and host the series of FREE webinars highlighting key topics on preventing intellectual and developmental disabilities in children. These webinars bring together a diverse group of stakeholders, including community-based and government organizations, health care professionals, educators, families and caregivers, to learn and discuss strategies for creating positive change in the lives of children and families across Texas.

Our presenters will share their experiences, expertise and passion to educate, engage and empower attendees and provide valuable information that may be applied personally and professionally.

Two hours of CE credits/contact hours are available daily during this conference. A total of eight credits/contact hours will be awarded to those attending all four days. Please see information below about CE credits/contact hours.

Register for the four days of virtual sessions at <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/TXHHSC/bulletins/2b57549>.

Conference **schedule**

Tuesday, March 9: Conference Day 1

10 a.m. to 11 a.m.
Central Time

Opening Keynote: Preventing Childhood Disabilities: A Public Health Perspective

Presenter:

Manda Hall, M.D., associate commissioner, community health improvement at the Texas Department of State Health Services.

Description:

The presentation will outline a framework for preventing childhood disabilities using a data-to-action approach. Setting the stage for the conference, data on the prevalence of childhood disabilities will be presented, along with data on the maternal health connection and the role of child injury. The presentation will also describe how data is used to inform and drive public health efforts aimed at childhood disability prevention, including key agency initiatives that focus on preconception and prenatal health, maternal care and infant health, newborn screening care coordination, children with special health care needs, and child injury prevention.

★ ★

11 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Central Time

Keynote: Creating a Circle of Hope

Presenter:

Kathleen T. Mitchell, MHS, LCADC, vice president and international spokesperson for the National Organization on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (NOFAS).

Description:

This keynote session will focus on how addiction can impact women's health, families, children and their unborn babies. Participants will learn about the lifelong cognitive, neurological and behavioral disorders related to prenatal alcohol exposure. The progression of addiction and recovery for both women and their families will be discussed. The focus of the session is how education on both addiction and recovery transforms systems of care to reframe expectations and interventions to improve outcomes for women and their families. Attendees will learn about NOFAS FASD prevention programs, COVID-19 adaptations and resources.

★ ★

12 p.m. to 12:30
p.m. Central Time



Interactive experiential learning activities, including a prevention trivia challenge.

<https://www.ahaslides.com/F6D15>

Tuesday, March 16: Conference Day 2

10 a.m. to 11 a.m.
Central Time

Session: Childhood Injury Prevention: At Home, on the Go, and at Play

Presenters from Dell Children's Medical Center:

Elizabeth Boriack, injury prevention coordinator;

Amber Garcia, CPST, CHES, project coordinator for the Kids in Cars program;

Lindsay Pollok, MPH, injury prevention coordinator;

Andrew Swanner, project coordinator for the Kids in Cars program.

Description:

Unintentional injury is the leading cause of death for children, with many more children experiencing non-fatal injuries that require medical treatment and may result in lifelong challenges. Often, child injuries are preventable and predictable. This presentation will focus on the leading mechanisms and best practice strategies for preventing childhood injury on the following topics: sleep safety, shaken baby syndrome, child passenger safety, and water safety. An overview of projects Dell Children's is currently implementing in the community will also be presented, including how family-centered initiatives have adapted during the COVID-19 pandemic.

★ ★

11 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Central Time

Session: Accidents Happen: Injury Prevention and Safety for Infants and Children

Presenters:

Jay Smith, project manager for the Office of Disability Prevention for Children at the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC);

Carrie Bradford, Ph.D., manager for the HHSC Office of Acquired Brain Injury.

Description:

Burns, brain injury, choking and other forms of physical trauma in infants and children can result in lifelong intellectual and developmental disabilities. This fast-paced presentation discusses causes, as well as practical tips and resources aimed at promoting infant and child injury safety within organizations and throughout communities. It is intended for parents, providers, educators, health professionals and anyone caring for infants and children. Learn about the strategies the Office of Disability Prevention for Children and Office of Acquired Brain Injury have incorporated to promote education and public awareness of the prevention of childhood injuries during the COVID-19 pandemic.

★ ★

12 p.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Central Time



Interactive experiential learning activities, including a prevention trivia challenge.

<https://www.ahaslides.com/F6D15>

Tuesday, March 23: Conference Day 3

10 a.m. to 11 a.m.
Central Time

Session, Part 1: Educating, Engaging and Empowering Families through Early Childhood Intervention Services

Presenter:

Mary Alice Alvarez, CCC-SLP, speech-language pathologist for the Texas Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) program at HHSC.

Description:

Early intervention helps children improve their abilities and learn new skills. This session will provide an overview of the Texas ECI program, including eligibility, developmental red flags, how to make a referral, and the value of ECI services. The session will also provide information on the coaching approach used to engage and empower parents and caregivers, and the use of telehealth to provide services in a variety of situations where traditional in-person services are not possible.

★ ★

Session, Part 2: Texas WIC Program: Educating, Engaging and Empowering Families

Presenter:

Kaylene Thompson, RD, LD, nutrition education specialist for the Texas Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program.

Description:

Texas WIC is a nutrition program for pregnant, breastfeeding women and families with children younger than 5. In this presentation, valuable program services will be discussed, including the eligibility process, benefits and updates on how services are being provided throughout the state during the COVID-19 pandemic. Developmental milestones client education initiatives, including a collaborative effort with the Association of State Public Health Nutritionists, will also be presented.

★ ★

11 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Central Time

Session: Title V Programs Focused on Early Identification and Services for Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

Presenters:

Audrey Young, MPH, Child and Adolescent Health Branch manager and the Title V Children with Special Health Care Needs (CSHCN) director in the Maternal and Child Unit at the Department of State Health Services (DSHS);

Claire Niday, MPH, state child health coordinator for the Maternal and Child Health Unit at DSHS.

Description:

Learn about the latest DSHS funding and services aimed at promoting health in women of childbearing age, children, infants, and children with special health care needs throughout Texas. This presentation will include a discussion of the Title V Block Grant and how Texas is using Title V funds to ensure early intervention, treatment and related services for intellectual and developmental disabilities. The presentation will go into detail on Help Me Grow Texas, Healthy Child Care Texas Grant Program, and the Children with Special Health Care Needs Systems Development Group’s (CSHCN SDG) initiatives.

12 p.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Central Time



Interactive experiential learning activities, including a prevention trivia challenge.

<https://www.ahaslides.com/F6D15>

Tuesday, March 30: Conference Day 4

10 a.m. to 11 a.m.
Central Time

Session: Trauma-Informed Support for People with Intellectual Disabilities

Presenter:

Karyn Harvey, Ph.D., psychologist, author, trainer and speaker.

Description:

Trauma in children occurs more often than you may think. This workshop will explore the sources of trauma in the lives of people with intellectual disabilities and the impacts of that trauma. It will then explore the mechanisms of healing and post-traumatic recovery.



11 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Central Time

Closing Keynote: Educate, Engage, Empower: Importance of Partnerships in Preventing Childhood Disabilities

Presenters:

Joe Perez, MBA, interim deputy executive commissioner of Health, Developmental & Independence Services at Texas HHSC;

Ron Lucey, executive director of the Texas Governor’s Committee on People with Disabilities;

Michelle Alletto, MBA, chief program and services officer at Texas HHSC.

Closing Remarks

Jay Smith, project manager for the Office of Disability Prevention for Children at Texas HHSC.

Presenter biographies



Michelle Alletto, MPA,

serves as the chief program and services officer (CPSO) for Texas HHSC. In this role, Michelle provides oversight and support to the programs that make up the full Texas HHS medical and social service array utilized by over 7 million Texans. Some key programs that Michelle oversees as CPSO include Medicaid, CHIP, Substance Use Disorder programs, behavioral health services, food assistance programs, women’s health programs, and the Health and Specialty Care System.



Mary Alice Alvarez, CCC-SLP,

is a speech-language pathologist who first worked in the Texas ECI program 25 years ago. She has worked at the ECI state office as a member of the Quality Assurance team since 2018, drawing on her professional knowledge and experience working with families to provide guidance to ECI contractors. When not working, Mary Alice enjoys spending time with her husband, three sons, two dogs and a cockatiel in their southwest Austin home.



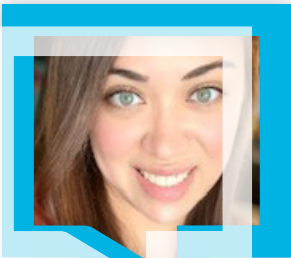
Elizabeth Boriack

works as an injury prevention coordinator for Dell Children’s Medical Center in Austin, Texas. She serves as the drowning prevention coordinator and started her position in April 2020. Her job entails collaborating with community partners to develop strategies for preventing drowning in surrounding communities. Elizabeth earned her bachelor’s degree from The University of Texas at Austin in biology and a master’s degree in public health from The University of Texas Health Science Center.



Carrie Bradford, Ph.D.,

is the manager for the Office of Acquired Brain Injury at Texas HHSC within the Brain Injury Programs. Carrie has worked for HHS for over 15 years serving in multiple roles. While she holds advanced degrees in environmental toxicology, her work has focused on providing education, public health prevention, and outreach to community members and stakeholders. In her current role, she uses these skills to encourage healthy behaviors for brain injury prevention.



Amber Garcia, CPST, CHES,

works as a coordinator for the Kids in Cars program at Dell Children’s Medical Center in Austin, Texas. The focus of her role is directed at child passenger safety. This includes community-based education working with partners and caregivers to reduce child injuries and fatalities as a result of motor vehicle collisions. Amber earned a bachelor’s degree in health and wellness promotion from Texas State University and has been with Kids in Cars since July 2018.



Manda Hall, M.D.,

was named the associate commissioner for community health improvement at Texas DSHS in October 2017. In this role, Dr. Hall oversees and provides strategic direction to four sections: Maternal and Child Health, Environmental Epidemiology and Disease Registries, Vital Statistics, and Health Promotion and Chronic Disease. Prior to this role, she served as the interim associate commissioner for family and community health services.



Karyn Harvey, Ph.D.,

has worked as a clinician in the field of intellectual disabilities for over 25 years. She has a master’s degree in clinical psychology and a Ph.D. in applied developmental psychology from the University of Maryland. She has published articles about therapeutic interventions with individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD), workbooks for individuals with IDD, and two books, Positive Identity Development, published in 2009 and Trauma-Informed Behavioral Interventions, published in 2011.



Ron Lucey,

is the executive director of the Texas Governor’s Committee on People with Disabilities. Ron previously served as the manager of the Accessibility and Web Support Unit for the Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS) and has held several positions at DARS and its legacy agency, the Texas Commission for the Blind, which included the establishment of a statewide information and referral system and the creation of a blindness prevention program.



Kathleen T. Mitchell, MHS, LCADC,

has been working with the National Organization on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (NOFAS) for over 35 years and is currently their Vice President and Spokesperson. She is a noted international speaker on Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD), Women and Addiction and Stigma. She holds a Master of Human Services (MHS) degree and is a licensed clinical alcohol and drug counselor (LCADC).



Claire Niday, MPH,

is the state child health coordinator for the Maternal and Child Health Unit at DSHS. In this role, she oversees Texas' Title V Block Grant programming that impacts early childhood. Programming related to early identification, intervention, and service coordination include Help Me Grow Texas, Healthy Child Care Texas, and the Texas Developmental Screening Workgroup. Claire also serves as the Act Early ambassador for Texas.



Joe Perez, MBA,

serves as interim deputy executive commissioner for Health, Developmental & Independence Services at Texas HHSC. Joe joined HHSC in 2019 as the deputy associate commissioner for Rehabilitative and Independence Services, where he oversaw more than 200 employees. An accomplished health care executive with more than 13 years of experience overseeing and managing the daily operations of health care facilities, he ensures high-quality and efficient health care services. Before joining HHSC, Joe worked for the U.S. Veterans Administration. He served as a combat Marine in Kuwait and Iraq for Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.



Lindsay Pollok, MPH,

has been an injury prevention coordinator at Dell Children's Medical Center since 2013. Lindsay consults with hospital patient families, builds relationships with organizations in the community, trains clinical providers and works to strengthen policies at the local and state level. Lindsay earned her bachelor's degree in biomedical sciences from Texas A&M University in 2008 and a master's in public health from the Texas A&M Health Science Center in 2010.



Jay Smith

is project manager for the HHSC Office of Disability Prevention for Children. Jay has more than 25 years of experience presenting on topics related to issues affecting children and families. His experience providing prevention and intervention services in the community includes serving as regional operations support administrator for Central Texas Child Protective Services, director of the National Runaway Hotline, and as a program director in the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services Division of Prevention and Early Intervention.



Andrew Swanner

is a project coordinator for the Kids in Cars program at Dell Children’s Medical Center in Austin, Texas. The focus of his role is directed at child passenger safety. This includes community-based education and working with partners and caregivers to reduce child injuries and fatalities as a result of motor vehicle collisions. Andrew has a bachelor’s degree in exercise science from Willamette University and has been with Kids in Cars since November 2019.



Kaylene Thompson, RD, LD,

is a registered and licensed dietitian working as a nutrition education specialist for Texas WIC at the state office in Austin. Kaylene serves as a subject matter expert for WIC nutrition education with a focus on maternal and child health. She is involved in program planning for the WIC program, providing support and training to local WIC offices throughout the state. Kaylene has a passion for public health and has been with WIC for eight years.



Audrey Young, MPH,

has served as the Child and Adolescent Health Branch manager and the Title V Children with Special Health Care Needs (CSHCN) director in the Maternal and Child Unit at Texas DSHS since June 2019. The Child and Adolescent Health Branch is responsible for implementing Title V-funded initiatives in the child, adolescent, and CSHCN populations.



If you need an accommodation, please email your request to the Office of Disability Prevention for Children at odpc@hhs.texas.gov.

Continuing education credit/contact hours

Continuing education credit/contact hours for this event are provided by The Texas Department of State Health Services, Continuing Education Service and include the following:

Continuing Medical Education:

The Texas Department of State Health Services, Continuing Education Service is accredited by the Texas Medical Association to provide continuing medical education for physicians. The Texas Department of State Health Services, Continuing Education Service designates this live activity for a maximum of 2 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)™. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.



Continuing Nursing Education:

The Texas Department of State Health Services, Continuing Education Service is accredited as a provider of continuing nursing education by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation. The Texas Department of State Health Services, Continuing Education Service has awarded 2 contact hour(s) of Continuing Nursing Education.



Social Workers:

The Texas Department of State Health Services, Continuing Education Service under sponsor number CS3065 has been approved by the Texas State Board of Social Worker Examiners (<https://dshs.texas.gov/socialwork>) to offer continuing education contact hours to social workers. The approved status of The Texas Department of State Health Services, Continuing Education Service expires annually on December 31. The Texas Department of State Health Services, Continuing Education Service has awarded 2 contact hour(s) of Continuing Social Work Education.



Certified in Public Health:

On 10/18/2017 the Texas Department of State Health Services, Continuing Education Service was awarded multi-event provider status (ID #1360) by the National Board of Public Health Examiners to award CPH continuing education credits. This activity has been awarded 2 credits.



Certified Health Education Specialists:

Sponsored by The Texas Department of State Health Services, Continuing Education Service, a designated provider of continuing education contact hours (CECH) in health education by the National Commission for Health Education Credentialing, Inc. This program is designated for Certified Health Education Specialists (CHES®) and/or Master Certified Health Education Specialists (MCHES®) to receive up to 2 total Category I contact education contact hours. Maximum advanced-level continuing education contact hours available are 0.00. Continuing Competency credits available are 0.00. Provider ID# 98017.

Licensed Chemical Dependency Counselors:

Provider (Texas Department of State Health Services, Continuing Education Service) approved by the TCBAP Standards Committee, Provider Number 2026-18, 2 hours general and 0 hours clinical supervision. Expires annually on August 31. Complaints about provider or workshop content may be directed to the TCBAP Standards Committee, 402 Ranch Road 620 S., Ste. 210, Austin, Texas 78734, Fax No. (888) 506-8123.



Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists:

The Texas Department of State Health Services, Continuing Education Service is considered a sponsor of continuing education for Licensed Professional Counselors according to the Texas Administrative Code, Title 22, Part 35, Chapter 801, Subchapter K, Rule §801.264 effective May 26, 2019, concerning continuing education sponsors. The Texas Department of State Health Services, Continuing Education Service has awarded 2 contact hour(s) for Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists.



Licensed Professional Counselors:

The Texas Department of State Health Services, Continuing Education Service is considered a sponsor of continuing education for Licensed Professional Counselors according to the Texas Administrative Code, Title 22, Part 30, Chapter 681, Subchapter J, Rule § 681.142. The Texas Department of State Health Services, Continuing Education Service has awarded 2 contact hours of Continuing Education.



Licensed Psychologists:

The Texas Department of State Health Services is authorized by the Texas State Board of Examiners of Psychologists as a (c)(2)(A) provider of professional development hours for licensed psychologists. Per the Texas State Board of Examiners of Psychologists Act and Rules, at least half (10) of the required 20 hours of professional development must be obtained by a provider listed in section (c)(2)(A). The Texas Department of State Health Services, Continuing Education Service has awarded 2 contact hour(s) for Licensed Psychologists.



Licensed Nursing Facility Administrator:

The Texas Department of State Health Services, Continuing Education Service is approved to provide Licensed Nursing Facility Administrator (LNFA) continuing education credit under Texas Administrative Code, TAC rule (26 TAC 555.35). The Texas Department of State Health Services, Continuing Education Service has awarded 2 contact hour(s) of Continuing Education.



Certificate of Attendance:

The Texas Department of State Health Services, Continuing Education Service has designated 2 hour(s) for attendance.