



TEXAS

Health and Human
Services

23D0292 - HHS ODPC - Feb. 2023

Creating Connections: Prevention with Purpose

We're excited to kick off the third annual 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.

Keynote Speakers



Sasha Rasco, MPAff

Chief Prevention and Community Well-Being Officer, Texas Department of Family and Protective Services



Sarah Abrahams, MPAff

Deputy Chief Officer, Prevention and Early Intervention Division, Texas Department of Family and Protective Services



**Sally Deitch,
MSN, MHA, RN, FACHE**

Executive Vice President, Nursing and Operations Infrastructure, Ascension

**March 7–28,
2023**

Register [here](#) or scan the QR code for the full virtual conference and attend the sessions that fit your schedule.



Two hours of continuing education (CE) credits/contact hours are available during the conference. A total of eight credits/contact hours will be awarded to those attending all four days. See the information below about CE credits/contact hours.

Conference Schedule

Tuesday, March 7: Conference Day 1

10–11 a.m.

Opening Keynote: Prevention with Purpose: Connected Communities, Stronger Families

Presenters:

Sasha Rasco, MPAff

Chief Prevention and Community Well-Being Officer, Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS)

Sarah Abrahams, MPAff

Deputy Chief Officer, Prevention and Early Intervention Division, DFPS

Description:

A connected community provides families with an avenue to successfully meet their needs. We will discuss how communities can make strong families a reality when they come together with common prevention goals.

11 a.m.–noon

Session: Women's Health Connections: Preconception, Prenatal and Postpartum Care for Moms and Babies

Presenter:

Joy Borjes, MSW

Associate Commissioner for Family Health Strategy, Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC)

Description:

This session explores connections between women's health and the prevention of disabilities in children. Participants will learn about available services and how today's service delivery can help future generations.

Noon–12:30 p.m.

Scan the QR code for an interactive experimental learning trivia challenge.



Tuesday, March 14: Conference Day 2

10–11 a.m.

Session: Accidents Happen: Preventing Injuries in Infants and Children

Presenters:

Leesa Ross, Board Member, Austin Safe Kids Coalition

Janeth Herrera, BASc, and Taylor Meehan

Program Coordinators, Kids in Cars Program, Austin Safe Kids Coalition

Description:

This session will cover practical tips and how to incorporate effective language tools meant to help keep kids safe while at home or on the road.

11 a.m.–noon

Session – Part I: Applying Professional Curiosity to Propel Systemic and Population-Based Outcomes

Presenter:

Clair Benitez, MA

Director, Office of Disability Services Coordination, HHSC

Description:

This session highlights strategies used to improve cross-area coordination and leverage existing investment to strengthen initiatives in a way that fortifies relationships and galvanizes innovation.

Session – Part II: Creating Effective Collaborations and Systems to Ensure Children’s Vision and Eye Health

Presenters:

Heather Patrick, BBA

President and Chief Executive Officer, Prevent Blindness Texas (PBT)

Monica Guerrero

Vice President of Programs and Community Outreach, PBT

Description:

Families may be unaware of what causes vision loss. The session will discuss how strategic partnerships can create improved systems to include vision screenings and resources to support children’s visual needs.

Noon–12:30 p.m.

Scan the QR code for an interactive experimental learning trivia challenge.



Tuesday, March 21: Conference Day 3

10–11 a.m.

Session: March of Dimes Panelists - Leading the Fight for Moms and Babies to Reduce Incidence of Childhood Disability

Presenters:

Lisa Dillard, RN, MSN

Director of Infant Health – West Texas Market, March of Dimes

Seetha Modi, MBA, MPH, CSSGB

Director of Infant Health – North Texas Market, March of Dimes

Erin Stangland, BA

Director of Infant Health – Austin Market, March of Dimes

Description:

Panelists will highlight prematurity as a leading cause of developmental disabilities, cover common birth defects and discuss the impact of newborn screenings on identification and early intervention.

11–noon

Session: Early Childhood Intervention and Help Me Grow: Weaving Systems, Programs and Services to Create Strong Families and Communities

Presenters:

Tammy Miller

Interagency Coordinator and Outreach Team Lead, Early Childhood Intervention, HHSC

Natasha Jahani, MPH

Help Me Grow Coordinator, Child and Adolescent Health Group in the Maternal and Child Health Unit, Department of State Health Services (DSHS)

Pattie Rosenlund, MA

Executive Director, Easterseals Rio Grande Valley

Description:

Learn how the Early Childhood Intervention program and the Help Me Grow System Model help families connect to programs and services to empower them in supporting their child's developmental growth.

12–12:30 p.m.

Scan the QR code for an interactive
experimental learning trivia challenge.





Tuesday, March 28: Conference Day 4

10–11 a.m.

Session – Part I: Overview of Children with Special Health Care Needs (CSHCN) Resources

Presenter:

Cassie Johnson, MPH, CSHCN

Project Coordinator, Maternal and Child Health Unit, DSHS

Description:

We must connect families to resources so they get needed services and are prepared for the future. This brief session will share a CSHCN population overview, barriers the population experiences and how to connect CSHCN with needed resources.

Session – Part II: Pediatric Acute-onset Neuropsychiatric Syndrome (PANS): Epidemiology, Demographics and Identification

Presenter:

Brandon Brock, DNP, DC, MSN, APRN, NP-C

Clinician, Carpathia Collaborative, Member of the Texas PANS Advisory Council

Description:

According to available estimates, about 11,000 children under the age of 18 develop this sudden, devastating illness yearly in Texas. Understanding this population and identifying them appropriately is a necessary task for appropriate treatment and care.

11 a.m.–noon

Closing Keynote: Autism Spectrum Disorder: From the Lens of a Parent

Presenter:

Sally Deitch, MSN, MHA, RN, FACHE

Executive Vice President, Nursing and Operations Infrastructure, Ascension

Description:

Raising a child who is on the autism spectrum highlights the extreme highs and lows of parenting. Access to services, understanding autism spectrum disorder, leveraging your child's rights and striving to bring out the best in your child is a lifelong journey.



Closing Remarks

Jay Smith, MHL

Program Manager, Office of Disability Prevention for Children, HHSC

Noon–12:30 p.m.

Scan the QR code for engaging post-conference activities.



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 event for a maximum of 8.00 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)*[™]. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

Nursing Continuing Professional Development:

The Texas Department of State Health Services, Continuing Education Service is accredited as a provider of nursing continuing professional development by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation.

The Texas Department of State Health Services, Continuing Education Service has awarded 8.00 contact hour(s) of nursing continuing professional development.

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 8.00 total Category I contact education contact hours.

Certified in Public Health

Up to 8.00 CPH Recertification Credits may be earned at this event.

Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists:

The Texas Department of State Health Services, Continuing Education Service, the continuing education provider, ensures that the education provided is related to the practice of marriage and family therapy; and that the individual(s) presenting the information have the necessary experience and knowledge in the topic(s) presented. The Texas Department of State Health Services, Continuing Education Service has awarded 8.00 hour(s) of credit.

Licensed Nursing Facility Administrators

The Texas Department of State Health Services, Continuing Education Service is approved to provide Licensed Nursing Facility Administrator continuing education hours, per LTCR Licensing and Credentialing, HHSC Regulatory Services. This program has been approved for Continuing Education for 8.00 total participant hours.

Licensed Professional Counselors:

Up to 8.00 LPC hours may be earned at this event.

Licensed Psychologists:

The Texas Department of State Health Services, Continuing Education Service is approved as a provider of professional development hours for licensed psychologists, per the Texas Administrative Code Rule §463.35 (f)(1). The Texas Department of State Health Services, Continuing Education Service has awarded 8.00 professional development hour(s).

Social Workers:

The Texas Department of State Health Services, Continuing Education Service, the continuing education provider, ensures that the education provided is directly related to the practice of social work; and that the individual(s) presenting the information have the necessary experience and knowledge in the topic(s) presented. The Texas Department of State Health Services, Continuing Education Service has awarded 8.00 hour(s) of credit.

Certificate of Attendance:

The Texas Department of State Health Services, Continuing Education Service has designated 8.00 hour(s) for attendance.

