

Partners in Child Protection Reform January 2010 Resource Digest

Happy New Year, Partners in Child Protection Reform!

The first resource digest of the year is a brief one because there are a couple of exciting opportunities coming up on a short deadline. Copied below are descriptions of events and publications that may be of interest to you or your organization. There are also links to follow for more information on each. As always, please send us any news or resources you would like to share with the group in the next digest.

Next Partners in Child Protection Reform Meeting:

Wednesday, February 3, 1-3pm
Texas Capitol, Room 3E.4, Austin, TX

There is no Partners meeting in January. Both of the Improvement Circles (Transition Centers and Front-End Behavioral Health Assessments) will be meeting in Austin on Wednesday, January 13. If you have not been participating in either of these Improvement Circles, but would like to get more involved, please let us know.

Events:

Task Force for Children with Special Needs Seeking Subcommittee Nominees

The Task Force on Children with Special Needs is a statutorily created 18 member committee whose mission is to unite leaders and stakeholders for the purpose of creating a strategic plan to improve the coordination and quality of services for children with chronic illnesses, intellectual and/or developmental disabilities and/or mental illness.

Subcommittees within the Task Force will cover the following topics:

- Early-childhood detection and intervention
- Education
- Mental health
- Health care
- Transitioning youth
- Crisis prevention and intervention
- Juvenile Justice
- Long-term, community-based services and supports

The Task Force is currently seeking nominations for individuals to serve on each subcommittee. Attached is a subcommittee member nomination form and cover letter with further explanation of the process. **Completed forms must be submitted by Monday, January 11th**

Task Force for Children with Special Needs Subcommittee Issue Selection

The leaders and members of each of the eight Task Force subcommittees listed above will select between two and four focus issues for examination. Attached is a form that may be completed by anyone who would like to suggest a specific issue for a subcommittee to address along with a cover letter explaining the process. **Completed forms must be submitted by Thursday, February 18th.**

Research:

Substance-Exposed Infants: State Responses to the Problem

This study from the National Center on Substance Abuse and Child Welfare assessed State policy from the broadest perspective: prevention, intervention, identification, and treatment of prenatal substance exposure, including immediate and ongoing services for the infant, the mother, and the family.

www.ncsacw.samhsa.gov/files/Substance-Exposed-Infants.pdf

Child Abuse and Neglect Deaths in Texas

Recently, a spotlight has been focused on deaths from child abuse and neglect in Texas. Texas does have a higher death rate per capita compared to other states. The exact reasons for the higher rate are difficult to determine but seem to be related to two factors:

First, other states may be undercounting their child abuse and neglect deaths.

Second, Texas probably has a larger number of child abuse and neglect deaths per capita related to the difficult circumstances families face in Texas, specifically high child poverty, a high teen birth rate, and low child abuse and neglect prevention.

Learn more by reading CPPP's latest policy page: <http://www.cppp.org/research.php?aid=936>