“Raising Texas”
“With Sound Minds and Sound Bodies”

The Texas Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Initiative
A School Readiness Initiative
Science of Early Brain Development

Early brain development is one of the most important pathways to lifelong learning, behavioral competence, positive social relationships, and health.
Brain is not mature at birth.

Brain is changed by experience good or bad.

The first five years of life are a critical period that form the foundation for all areas of development.

Relationships in the first three years of life program social emotional function, and well-being for life.

Adversity impacts not only brain development, but also, physical, and emotional wellbeing.
Healthy Brain

The PET scan of the brain of a normal child shows regions of high, intermediate, and low activity. At birth, only a few structures, such as the thalamus and cerebellum, are fully functional, in regions like the temporal lobes (left, early childhood experiences occur in the cortex).

Front

Temporal lobes

Back

An Abused Brain

This PET scan of the brain of a neglected child who was institutionalized shortly after birth, shows the effect of extreme deprivation to infancy. The temporal lobes (left), which regulate emotions and receive input from the senses, are nearly quiescent. Such children suffer emotional and cognitive problems.
Sub-optimal Developmental Trajectory

Evidence that many problems in adult life have their origins in pathways that begin in childhood including: obesity, mental health problems, aggressive and violent behavior, criminality, poor literacy, welfare dependency, etc (ACE Study 1998; Rand Study 2006).
Strategies to Improve School Readiness Trajectories

- Lack of health services
- Poverty
- Family Discord
- Social-emotional, Physical Cognitive, Language function
- Lower trajectory: With diminished function
- Parent education
- Emotional literacy
- Reading to child
- Appropriate Discipline
- Pre-school
- Late Toddler
- Late Preschool

Age

Birth Early Infancy
Late Infancy Early Toddler
Late Toddler Early Preschool

6 mo 12 mo 18 mo 24 mo 3 yrs 5 yrs

Center for Healthier Children, Families & Communities

UCLA
So what does brain development have to do with the Texas Early Childhood Comprehensive System Initiative?
Building State Capacity

Review of the literature tells that in order to ensure the optimal development of young children, states must develop a common vision and unite different sectors of government around common goals and coordinate services in order to be more effective in serving the birth through five population.
The State Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Initiative is a “school readiness” initiative funded through the Bureau of Maternal and Child Health. It is designed to promote best practice and increase coordination between health and early childhood services for children birth to five.
Five Key Early Childhood Components

- Access to Insurance and Medical Home
- Social Emotional Development and Mental Health
- Early Care and Education
- Parent Education
- Family Support
Vision

To achieve optimum development and well-being for every Texas child beginning at birth.
Mission

To promote an effective, comprehensive seamless system that serves and supports families in areas of early child care and learning, mental health/social and emotional development, parent education, family support and access to Medical Homes.
Access to Insurance and Medical Home
Result: All children in Texas will be enrolled in a public or private health care program and receive health related services in a Medical Home
Access to Insurance and Medical Home

- Access to Health Care and Insurance (Insurance, Medicaid, CHIP)
- Promoting Medical Home
- Pregnant and Postpartum Women
- Developmental Screenings
- Immunizations
- Dental Home
Social Emotional Development and Mental Health
Result One: Families nourish their children to be healthy, happy, and to become contributing members of society.
Result Two: Children will enter school with the social and emotional skills they need to succeed in school and life
Social Emotional Development and Mental Health

- Public and Parent Awareness
- State Mental Health Transformation Plan
- Provider Training
- Access and Referral
Early Care and Education
Result: All children in Texas, age birth through five, will have access to quality early care and education programs.
Early Care and Education

- Public Awareness
- Alignment of Standards
- Development of Personnel Preparation
- Monitoring and Accountability System
Parent Education and Family Support
Result: All Texas Children will thrive in nurturing family environments achieving their developmental potential.
Parent Education and Family Support

- Parent Education
  - Public Awareness
  - Identification of Effective Programs
  - Parent Education Programs
  - Healthy Families
- Family Support
  - Increase Access
  - Family Partnerships
So what will a comprehensive system look like for Texas?
THE TEXAS EARLY CHILDHOOD COMPREHENSIVE SYSTEMS (TECCS) INITIATIVE

Access to Insurance Medical Home
- Increased access to insurance and healthcare
- Medical Home
- Pregnant and postpartum women
- Developmental screenings
- Immunizations
- Dental Home

Social Emotional Development and Mental Health
- State Mental Health Transformation Plan
- Early Childhood mental health providers
- Comprehensive system of promotion, prevention, and intervention
- Educate families

Early Care and Education
- Public awareness
- Development of personnel preparation
- Monitoring and accountability system
- Healthy Child Care Texas

Parent Education and Family Support
- Public awareness
- Parenting education
- Accessing resources
- Parent involvement in policy
- Family support centers

COORDINATED COMPREHENSIVE SYSTEM

Raising Children with Sound Minds and Bodies
Achieve optimum development and well being for every Texas child beginning at birth
And what does an integrated and coordinated system look like?
Integrated and Coordination of Components

Access to Insurance Medical Home
- Increased access to insurance and healthcare
- Medical Home
- Pregnant and postpartum women
- Developmental screenings
- Immunizations
- Dental Home

Social Emotional Development and Mental Health
- State Mental Health Transformation Plan
- Early Childhood mental health providers
- Comprehensive system of promotion prevention, and intervention
- Educate families

Early Care and Education
- Public awareness
- Development of personnel preparation
- Monitoring and accountability system

Parent Education and Family Support
- Public awareness
- Parenting education
- Accessing resources
- Parent involvement in policy
- Family support centers
NEXT STEPS

- Obtain External Stakeholder Feedback
- Submit for review to the Commissioners and the Governors Office
- Submit Grant for 2006-2007
- Identify Component Workgroups Members
- Identify an Executive Steering Committee
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