

Childcare-Early Education Navigation

Dawn Garritty, MSW
System Coordinator

Jennifer Cox, PhD
System Director



Disclosure

The views expressed in this presentation are those of the speaker and not, necessarily, of the Help Me Grow National Center or Connecticut Children's Medical Center.

Further, the presence of a commercial vendor at a Help Me Grow National Center event, and the presentation of or by any vendor of any information regarding any specific commercial products, process, or service by trade name, trademark, manufacturer, or otherwise, does not constitute or imply Help Me Grow National's endorsement, recommendation, or favoring of such item or organization. Any such material presented by or for any vendor, in any format, without limitation, is for informational purposes only. Any potential customer of any vendor, who is present at a Help Me Grow National Center event, is expected to conduct their own due diligence and assessment of the vendor, product, or services as appropriate for their needs.

Childcare/ Early Education Navigation: Our Journey



Fun Facts-By the Numbers

• Became an affiliate September 30, 2019

• 3 Backbone Agencies:

- My Health My Resources Tarrant County (western side: 5 program staff, 11 Navigators, 5 Community Alignment)
- United Way Metropolitan Dallas (eastern side: staff participation)
- ChildCare Group (4 Navigators)

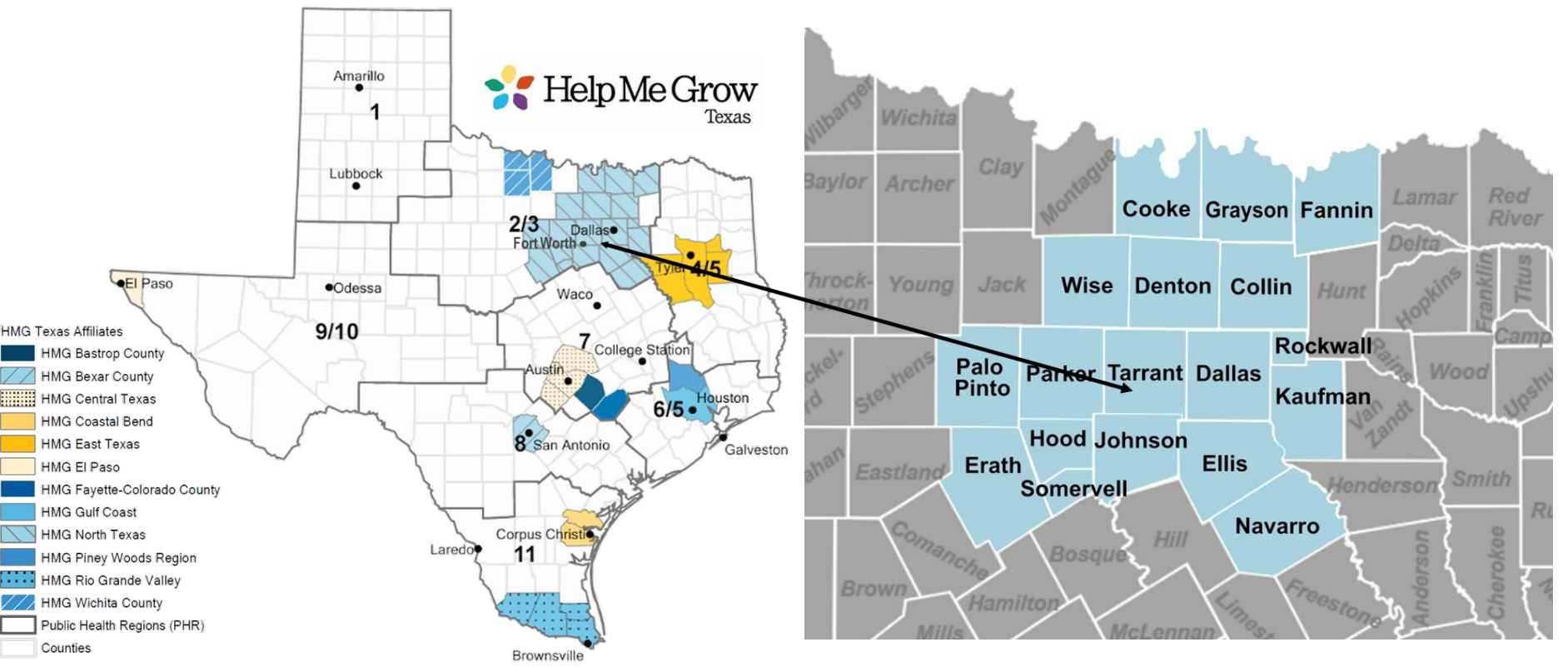
• Covers 14,000+ square miles (larger than the country of Taiwan)

• 650,000+ children under the age of 6

• 100+ Partnership Pledges & 450+ general stakeholder partners



Texas Expansion of Help Me Grow



Implementation Model

5 Help Me Grow Subcommittees:



Centralized Access Point



Marketing & Outreach



Family Engagement



Provider Support & Training

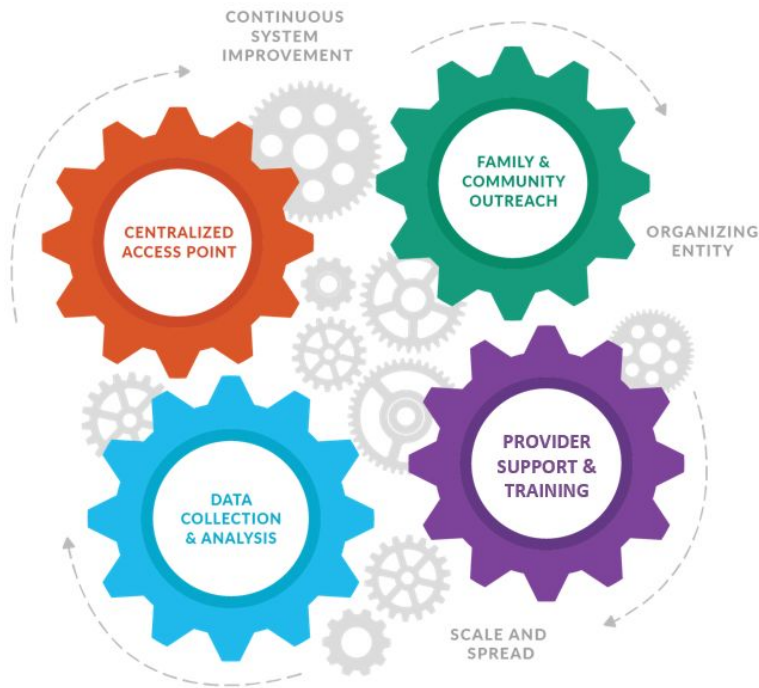


Data Collection & Analysis

Cross-sector co-chairs from healthcare, childcare, schools, and child/youth-serving providers.

Leadership meets bimonthly

Larger stakeholder group meets bimonthly on
opposing months.





Help Me Grow

North Texas

Prenatal up to age 6

1-844-NTX-KIDS

Tots to Teens and In BeTweens



Help Me Thrive

North Texas

Ages 6 up to 18

1-844-NTX-TEEN



Call 1-844-NTX-TEEN

Email: info@helpmethrivenorthtexas.org

"System of Care"



Help Me Grow / Help Me Thrive – "System Framework"

Early Childhood Wellness Council / Youth Community Advisory Council

Continuum of Services

Universal Navigation

Intensive Navigation

Promotion

Universal Healthcare Integration
HealthySteps / Family Connects
Universal Screening / Physical / Mental Well-Being
School / Child Care Center Enrichment
Navigation - SDOH Screening - Developmental Screening
Family Voice / Youth Voice
Provider Support / Workforce Development
Trauma-Informed System
Outreach / Marketing

Prevention

MHC Consultation Classroom
Targeted Home Visiting
Targeted Integrated Care
Groups - Integrated
Assessment and Referral
Trauma-Informed Practices
Mental Health Consultation - Targeted Population
Targeted Outreach

Intervention

Individual Counseling / Dyadic Approaches
Outpatient Services
Specialized Therapy / Training / Rehab
Comprehensive Individual / Family Plans
Early Childhood Intervention - ECI

Crisis

YES Waiver / Intensive Wrap Around Services
Crisis Assess Center
Adolescent Crisis Respite
Residential Treatment Center
Secure Crisis Respite
Out of Home Placement

Data & Evaluation

Help Me Grow Call Center



01

Navigation w/ Connection

Linking families to community resources and supports based on their unique needs

02

Answers to Questions

Help in answering pregnancy, parenting, and child development questions

03

Developmental Screenings

Free developmental screenings for every child ages 0 to 6

The Need

Between April 2020 and October 2023

- 14,000 family referrals and 27,000 community resources provided through the Centralized Access Point across 18 counties
- 8,000 referrals and 16,000 community resources provided specifically in Tarrant County
- High and increasing volume of referrals including child care needs prompted the establishment of navigator roles focused on early care and education.

The Work

January 2023- A childcare navigation work group began meeting and developing a job description

February 2023- Focus groups and interviews focused on childcare challenges and needs in Tarrant County

June 2023- First Childcare/Early Education Navigator hired

August 2023- Second Childcare/Early Education Navigator hired

October 2023- Began providing virtual regional training for childcare providers

February 2024- Hired third Childcare/Early Education Navigator

March 2024- Early Care and Education in Tarrant County report published

August 2024- Childcare/Early Education Navigators became ASQ trainers

Job Description- Purpose

The Help Me Grow Childcare/Early Education Navigator will:

- provide access and referral service coordination to families related to their childcare/Pre-K and other resource needs.
- work with a variety of childcare and early education entities to support their developmental screening practices and access to Infant Early Childhood Mental Health Consultants
- provide individualized, trauma-informed, culturally, and linguistically competent services based on high-quality, evidence-based practices for children, youth, and their families.

Job Description- Essential Functions

- Demonstrate and maintain competency to perform as a credentialed Early Intervention Specialist (EIS)
- Provide navigation to families to assist with their childcare and other community resources needs.
- Build relationships with area Pre-K program and child care program leaders
- Provide training to childcare and early education providers and educators
- Be a good advocate for parents experiencing challenges related to childcare.
- Link centers to Infant-Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation for social-emotional, trauma-informed supports and/or other MHMR early childhood programs.
- Support centers' developmental screening practices using ASQ-3 and ASQ SE

Research Study

Purpose

“...identify successes and challenges associated with providing and accessing childcare that meets the needs of families with young children, with a particular focus on families with nontraditional childcare needs, such as parents with irregular working hours or children with disabilities.”

Who

- Focus groups and interviews with an array of early education stakeholders
- 120 participants
- 17 focus groups and interviews
- Participants included-
 - Parents
 - Program Directors
 - Childcare Providers
 - Childcare Mentors
 - HMG North Texas Family Navigators

Findings

Study Findings

- Family challenges such as long waiting lists
- Limited access to childcare appropriate to meet the needs of children with disabilities
- Recommendations for Childcare Navigators
- Marketing

Recommendations

How Childcare Navigators can help-

- Help families find childcare
- Connect families and providers to resources
- Act as a liaison between families and providers

Navigator experience and training-

- Knowledge of child development and social work
- Experience in childcare
- Understanding of childcare regulations
- Proficiency with online resources

Successes

Impact

Regional Virtual Training

- 42 Sessions
- 75 (Centers and In-Home Programs)
- 345 providers in attendance

In-Person Training

- 16 Early Childhood Programs
- 84 In attendance

ASQ Partnerships

- 110-120 Childcare Programs

[Link to Google folder \(click here\)](#)

Job Description
Research Study
Marketing Flyer

Contact Us:



Dawn Garritt, MSW
System Coordinator-Childcare/Early
Education Navigation
MHMR Tarrant County
Dawn.Garritty@mhmrtc.org



Jennifer Cox PhD
System Director-Provider Support and
Training
MHMR Tarrant County
Jennifer.Cox@mhmrtc.org