

## QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



Summer 2021

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**July 21st, 2021**

**9:00am - 3:30pm**

### **Learn, Grow, Eat, & Go! School and Community Partners Training**

This training will cultivate awareness of how school gardens can be used as a tool to educate children and families on the importance of healthy eating and active lifestyles utilizing the Learn, Grow, Eat, & Go elementary school curriculum & Walk Across Texas!

**Location:** Dallas County District 1 R&B Complex  
715 Rowlett Road  
Garland, Texas 75043

**Cost:** \$20  
Register [here!](#)

### **Ongoing**

#### **Walk Across Texas!**

An eight-week program designed to help Texans establish the habit of regular physical activity. Each adult team may include up to 8 team members, all working to reach the 832-mile goal. The Walk Through Texas History is a four-week program where 8 team members work together to follow legendary historical Texas paths. Find a team and register [here!](#)

## Live Smart Texas News

The Texas Legislature adjourned the 87<sup>th</sup> Session on May 31, 2021. The Michael & Susan Dell Center for Healthy Living spent the session tracking 352 bills related to their research mission – 161 child health related bills and 191 health care access bills. This is a substantial increase from prior years; in 2013, the first year of the Center's Legislative Bill Tracker, they tracked 53 bills, and in 2019, the last legislative session, they tracked 97 bills.

This was the first session that the bill tracking team tracked health care access bills, and it proved to be a popular topic – the most-visited topic page on the Legislative Bill Tracker website this year was Health Care Access, followed by Food Access and Insecurity, Obesity, and Maternal and Child Health.

A food access bill [SB 224](#), which simplifies the SNAP certification and recertification process for elderly and those with disabilities, passed and was signed into law effective 9/1.

You can visit the tracker to see which child health related bills passed this session, and then check back for the 88<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session in 2023. Learn more [here](#).

In health,  
Leah & Emily  
Co-Chairs

## REGIONAL UPDATES

### **HSR 1**

[Covenant High Plains Surgery Center becomes West Texas' only surgery center to achieve accreditation from the Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery Accreditation and Quality Improvement Program](#)

**HSR 4/5N**

[HEAT STRESS A MAJOR CONCERN DURING SUMMER BY JOHANNA HICKS, FAMILY & COMMUNITY HEALTH AGENT](#)

Front Porch News

**HSR 5/6S**

[Gov. Abbott Signs Bill Extending Medicaid Coverage For New Texas Mothers](#)

Houston Public Media

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# RESOURCES

The Michael and Susan Dell Center for Healthy Living released new one-pagers as part of the Texas Child Health Status Report Project. These one-pagers provide updated information on child obesity, eating away from home and sugar-sweetened drink consumption using data from the 2019-2020 School Physical Activity and Nutrition (SPAN) project.

[Healthy Children, Healthy State. A one-pager on the child sugar-sweetened drink crisis in Texas from the Texas Child Health Status Report Project using 2019-2020 SPAN data.](#)

[Healthy Children, Healthy State. A one-pager on the child obesity crisis in Texas from the Texas Child Health Status Report Project using 2019-2020 SPAN data.](#)

[Healthy Children, Healthy State. A one-pager on the child eating away from home crisis in Texas from the Texas Child Health Status Report Project using 2019-2020 SPAN data.](#)

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Texas A&M University AgriLife Extension's website provides information related to [child care during COVID-19](#), online courses about statewide [programs](#) that are available to child care providers, the "[Scrub Up Tune Up](#)" Handwashing Program, and [information and resources](#) about COVID-19.

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## WEBINARS

Texas Action for Healthy Kids has [UPCOMING webinars](#) on their website to check out!

**Unspoken - Debunking Myths and Delivering Strategies to Foster Relationships in Vulnerable Communities**

*A Texas School Health Advisory Council (SHAC) webinar*

**Thursday, August 26, 2021 | 11am-12:30pm CT [Register here](#)**

Families of all demographics and communities are necessary for SHACs to understand the needs, impact policy, and advocate for change. Unspoken thoughts and practices, at the core of our culture and climate, often determine whether family engagement relationships in our underserved and marginalized communities fail or flourish. In this session we will:

- Gain further insight on health disparities and inequities in our schools
- Discuss misconceptions towards family engagement in underserved communities
- Share key strategies on how to build long-term trusting relationships

**CALLING ALL SCHOOL HEALTH ADVISORY COUNCILS!**

Action for Healthy Kids and our partner organizations have been working for years to support School Health Advisory Councils (SHACs), but many SHACs are not even aware of the webinars we produce or the information we share.

We would like to invite you and others from to join our SHACs in Action network! Feel free to share this information with any SHAC members you are connected with in your district. We are building a database so we can communicate with our SHAC leaders who are working hard to make sure our districts and campuses are healthy learning environments.

Please go to the link below and provide basic contact information - Name, Organization/District, Title, City and email. We also ask what role you have in school community - Community Member, Parent, or District/School staff. Please register here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SHACNetwork>

To view and register for other webinars through Texas Action for Healthy Kids, visit their [website!](#)

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The Michael & Susan Dell Center for Healthy Living has [UPCOMING webinars](#) on their website to check out!

**Health Promotion Interweaving: Designing Health Promotion Interventions in Context via Youth Voice and Community Partnerships**

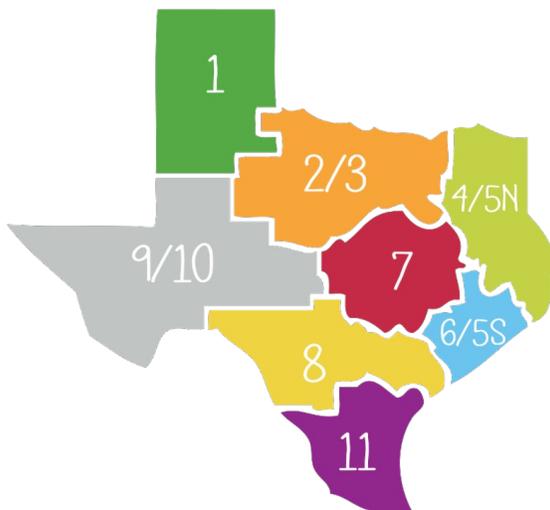
**Tuesday, July 20, 2021 | 12:00pm-1:00pm CT [Register here](#)**

This webinar will explore the design method of health promotion interweaving into settings and environments, defined as weaving or blending health promotion strategies, practices, programs, and policies to fit within and build from existing context. In doing so, we will first share our experience with the Youth-led Community Health Learning Initiative, a youth-led community health assessment initiative aimed at identifying both needs and actionable opportunities for health improvement in partnership with two central Texas communities. We will then share highlights and lessons learned from the Stronger Austin initiative, a community partner-driven initiative in which free adult fitness classes were interwoven into settings with widespread access for community residents, including clinics, public schools, city-supported housing, recreation centers and neighborhood parks.

To view past webinars, visit The Michael & Susan Dell Center for Healthy Living [website!](#)

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## REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES



**Region 1:** Dr. Naima Moustaid-Moussa, Texas Tech University ([naima.moustaid-moussa@ttu.edu](mailto:naima.moustaid-moussa@ttu.edu))

**Region 2/3:** Victoria Nelson, Children's Health - Dallas ([Victoria.Nelson@Childrens.com](mailto:Victoria.Nelson@Childrens.com))

**Region 4/5N:**  
Paula Butler, MAg, RDN, LD, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service ([pibutler@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:pibutler@ag.tamu.edu))

**Region 6/5S:** LaPorcha Carter, Harris County Public Health ([LaPorcha.Carter@phs.hctx.net](mailto:LaPorcha.Carter@phs.hctx.net))

**Region 7:** Kara Prior Hanaoka, IT'S TIME TEXAS ([kara@itstimetexas.org](mailto:kara@itstimetexas.org))

**Region 8:** Denise Benoit-Moctezuma, City of San Antonio Metropolitan Health District ([Denise.Benoit-Moctezuma@sanantonio.gov](mailto:Denise.Benoit-Moctezuma@sanantonio.gov))

**Region 9/10:** Pema Garcia, Texas A&M University ([pgarcia@arch.tamu.edu](mailto:pgarcia@arch.tamu.edu))

**Region 11:** Dr. Belinda Reininger, UTSPH Brownsville ([Belinda.M.Reininger@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:Belinda.M.Reininger@uth.tmc.edu))

