Texas Child Safety Newsletter

2014 Winter, Volume I

News from the Texas Office for Prevention of Developmental Disabilities

NEWSLETTER KICK-OFF

Texas Office for Prevention of Developmental Disabilities (TOPDD) is kicking off the winter season with the ***new*** Child Safety Newsletter keeping you updated on prevention in Texas!

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Texas Office for Prevention of Developmental Disabilities

Minding the Minds of Children

909 West 45th Street
Austin, Texas 78751

www.topdd.state.tx.us

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Follow Us on Twitter!
@PreventDD

Spotlight on Policy

TOPDD Interviews State Representative Eddie Lucio, III

Recently, TOPDD had the pleasure of connecting with Texas State Representative Eddie Lucio, III. Representative Lucio represents District 38, a region along the border in southwest Texas, where he was born and raised. We met with Rep. Lucio to learn more about his commitment to safety, how to make positive change, and how he addresses safety as an elected official.

Representative Lucio believes that all Texas children need to be provided with safe and healthy communities in order to thrive. Since his election in 2007, Representative Lucio has been a champion for the safety and well-being of Texas children and families.

"We are only as good as the next generation," he stated. After becoming a father in 2009, Rep. Lucio had new insight into the importance of children's health and wellness. Representative Lucio states that being a father has helped him to appreciate the need for public safety, children's health, and education.

(Article continued on Page 3)

NEWSLETTER HIGHLIGHTS

The 84th Texas Legislative session is coming up and this issue focuses on ways YOU can be involved! You will meet Representative Eddie Lucio III, learn advocacy tips, and see advocacy in action. Make child safety your New Year resolution!

Share your ideas with us and incorporate **#safety** and **#prevention** in your New Year **#resolutions***!* Tweet with us **@PreventDD**

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About TOPDD

TOPDD is an independent state office with public-private partnerships across the state to prevent developmental disabilities. The office strives to improve outcomes for kids in Texas because keeping children safe is a top priority!

One way to help keep kids safe is connecting safety leaders and keep prevention and intervention as an important focus in our state. TOPDD is privileged to work with leaders and organizations to guide its work.

TOPDD can't do its work without you!

84th Texas Legislative Session

Every two years, Texas elected officials meet in Austin to pass legislation and create a budget for Texas.

The 84th Legislature begins on January 13, 2015 and runs through June 1, 2015. During this time, your elected officials will vote on a wide range of bills, including issues on child safety, prevention, health care, and education.

Voice your support and concerns on issues that affect Texas children and their safety!

To find out who represents you, and what issues they care about, visit the Texas Legislature online:
www.fyi.legis.state.tx.us/Home

Child Safety: 4 Ways to Advocate

Check out these useful tips.

1. **Choose an issue that matters** to you and stay up-to-date on what's going on. **Read Policy Search Tips on Page 7**.
2. **Start making the case to support your issue.** Put pen to paper, or fingers to the keys and list facts around the issue affecting you. Having an organized list of key arguments is helpful for framing your issue. Personal stories are very impactful!
3. **Work with others.** Attend and speak out at public forums, share your story with your local newspaper or online forum, or join advocacy groups that care about your issue.
4. **Connect with your elected officials.** To get started, find out who represents you online: **www.fyi.legis.state.tx.us/Home.aspx**

Write a letter, make a phone call, or set-up a meeting with your elected officials' office to share your story and the facts about your issue. Continue to stay in touch; they need to hear from you regularly to help improve child outcomes in Texas!

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Spotlight on Policy: TOPDD Interviews State Representative Eddie Lucio, III

"Children require good policies to be in place because they can't speak for themselves," stated Rep. Lucio.

While in office, Rep. Lucio has worked tirelessly on policy issues about prevention and intervention, which include: a bill to expand Medicaid services to increase eligibility for families of children with special needs; work with the University Interscholastic League (UIL) Medical Advisory Committee to prevent concussions and traumatic brain injury by limiting full-contact football practices; and establishing the Interagency Task Force for Children with Special Needs, which improves the availability and coordination of services for kids with serious mental illness and developmental disabilities.

> "People can best impact government by sharing their experiences."
>
> **– State Representative Eddie Lucio, III**

As Representative Lucio starts his 5th legislative session in January, he plans to continue to keep children and families central to his role. He hopes to focus on transition services for children in public schools with developmental disabilities as well as limiting texting and driving. As an elected official, Rep. Lucio remains committed to listening to the public and making sure that their needs and concerns are heard. For those seeking to make a difference, he offers advice: "People can best impact government by sharing their experiences. We rely heavily on you to inform us on what we need to do. Connect with your elected officials."

ADVOCACY IN ACTION

Cherie Stanley is many things. She's an Instructional technologist, an educator and technical Guru, a self-described lifelong learner, and most importantly, Cherie is a mom and an advocate on behalf of her daughter, Annie Stanley.

Cherie works diligently to raise awareness in her community about her daughter's disability. She has organized several community events and has also contacted her local news station to inform the public about some of the challenges her family faces.

Cherie Stanley
Child Advocate in Fred, Texas

You TOO can be an ADVOCATE in your community!

Watch Cherie's video on YouTube.
www.youtube.com/watch?v=v-gjNHwMGz8&feature=youtu.be

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Holiday Safety Tips

The holidays are a great time for family and festivities, but they are also a time when child injuries *increase*. Protect your little ones this season from common holiday dangers.

1) Keep decorative plants and "bubbling lights" out of reach of children because they may be poisonous if ingested.

2) Avoid choking hazards and keep tree ornaments, light bulbs, icicles, tinsel, and small toys out of reach from babies and toddlers. Keep up with the latest PRODUCT RECALLS by visiting www.safekids.org/product-recalls

3) The rise in alcohol consumption during the holidays creates a host of issues. Drink responsibly, keep alcohol cups and containers out of reach of children, don't drink and drive, and stay safe when traveling.

Be extra attentive this holiday and prevent accidents; in the home, at the playground, in stores, and at holiday events. Use this time to talk with your children about being safe and update your household safety plan!

Texas Legislature ONLINE

The Texas Legislature online (TLO) is a state website that lets you learn about state bills and track the ones you care about.

TLO has information about specific bills including if they will be reviewed by legislators, any scheduled public hearings, and dates bills will be voted on.

Bills can be searched by entering specific words or phrases or by browsing by subject. You can create a personal list of bills you wish to follow and opt to receive email notifications on status changes.

Sign up at www.legis.state.tx.us/MYTLO

Try these search words:

"Child" **"Safety"**
"Disability" **"Health"**

New Topics to follow this session:

- Adapting physical education curriculum to accommodate needs of students with mental disabilities
- Availability of full-day prekindergarten programs in public schools
- Consent to immunization of certain children
- Penalties for smoking tobacco in a passenger vehicle with a child present
- Penalties for texting and driving
- Providing free full-day prekindergarten for certain children

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What's Happening Around Texas

MONTHLY EVENTS

www.safekids.org/coalition/safe-kids-texas

Free safety events occur regularly, including car seat checkups, community events, educational workshops and sport safety clinics. Find a coalition near you and make an appointment to visit a workshop! Visit Safe Kids Texas online.

Austin

1st Wednesday	1st Friday	2nd Friday	3rd Friday
3417 E. MLK Jr. Blvd Austin, 78753 10a-1p (512) 972-7233	4900 Mueller Blvd Austin, 78723 9a-11a (512) 324-8687	1625 Rutherford Austin 78754 10a-1p (512) 972-7233	Various, 9a-1p For more info, call (512) 972.5139

Greater Dallas Area (Alphabetical By City)

Every Monday	2nd Friday	Last Friday/ Month
1935 Medical District **Dallas**, 75235 12:30p-2:30p (No Appt. Required)	12505 Lebanon Frisco, 75035 9a-11:30a (No Appt. Required)	7601 Preston Rd Plano, 75093 9a-12p (No Appt. Required)

Dallas - Fort Worth - Arlington Area (Alphabetical By City)

Every Thursday	3rd Tuesday	Every Friday	Every Wednesday	Every Wednesday	Every Tuesday
1200 South Collins Arlington, 76010 10a-1p (682) 885-2634	909 Wimbledon Arlington, 76017 10a-12p (682) 885-2634	1500 W Rosedale Fort Worth, 76104 10:30a-12:30p (682) 885-2634	120 NW 22nd St Fort Worth, 76106 9a-12p (682) 885-2634	4700 Ramey Ave Fort Worth, 76119 9a-12p (682) 885-2634	3200 Denton Hwy Haltom City, 76117 9a-11a (682) 885-2634

QUICK TIPS:

*Children's hospitals often offer free classes. Get in touch with your local Children's Hospital to find out more.

* Call 2-1-1, or search online at www.211texas.org to find safety events happening in your area.

Greater Houston Area (Alphabetical By City)

1st Thursday	1st Friday	1st/3rd Monday	Every Tuesday	3rd Wednesday	M,T,W,Th,F	Every Monday
3201 N Loop 336 W Conroe, 77304 9a-12p (936) 539-9530	4100 Luella Deer Park, 77536 10a-12:30p (832) 822-2277 or (281) 822-2277	1600 Whitaker Friendswood, 77546 4p-8p (281) 996-3316	4310 Kirby, Ste. 101 **Houston**, 77005 10:30a-4:30p (281) 661-6100	4027 Irvington Blvd **Houston**, 77009 9a-12p (713) 812-0033 extension 237	5202 AldineMail Rt **Houston**, 77039 9a-4p (281) 449-6600	7400 Fannin St **Houston**, 77054 12p-4p (832) 822-2277
Every Mon & Fri	**3rd Wednesday**	**M,T,W,Th,F**	**M,T,W,Th,F**	**M,T,W,Th,F**	**M,T,W,Th,F**	**M,T,W,Th,F**
5575 Richmond **Houston**, 77056 10:30a-5p (713) 785-8511	6856 Bellaire Blvd **Houston**, 77074 9a-12:30p (832) 822-2277	7043 Hwy 6 South **Houston**, 77083 9a-4p (281) 564-5988	7614 Fallbrook **Houston**, 77086 9a-4p (281) 537-9492	17117 Cali Dr **Houston**, 77090 9a-4p (281) 537-1606	9111 Eastex Fwy **Houston**, 77093 9a-4p (713) 759-9454	19818 Franz Rd Katy, 77449 9a-4p (281) 647-9371
2nd Thursday	**3rd Friday**	**1st Wednesday**	**1st Tuesday**	**Every Wednesday**		
3940 Pasadena Fwy Pasadena, 77503 1p-4p (832) 822-2277	3100 Kirby Dr Pearland, 77584 8:30a-12p (281) 997-5840	1521 Eugene Hermann Cir Richmond, 77469 9a-12p (281) 238-1536	2110 4th St Rosenberg, 77471 9a-1p (832) 822-2277	7111 Five Forks Spring, 77379 9a-4p (281) 378-0800		

San Antonio

1st Tuesday

302 Dora Street
San Antonio, 78212
9a-11a
(No Appt. Required)

Make an appointment, visit Safe Kids Texas online

Temple

1st Wednesday	3rd Thursday
1901 SW H.K. Dodgen Loop Temple, 76502 10a-11:30a (254)724-8202	1901 SW H.K. Dodgen Loop Temple, 76502 4-7p (254)724-8202

If you would like an event featured in the Texas Child Safety Newsletter, send your request to **TOP@hhsc.state.tx.us** or call TOPDD at (512) 206-4544.

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★Cost to Attend

Events Page

Dec 13 2014
Safe Kids El Paso's Child Car Seat and Safety Check-Up ★
9:30a – 11:30a
Target Audience: General Public
Details at http://www.safekids.org/coalition/safe-kids-el-paso

Dec 14 2014
Austin/ Travis County EMS Child Passenger Safety Inspections ★
4101 James Casey Rd, Austin
10:00a – 12:30p
Target Audience: General Public
Make an Appointment, call (512) 972-7233

Dec 15 2014
Austin/ Travis County EMS Child Passenger Safety Inspections ★
1625 Rutherford Lane, Austin
10:00a – 12:30p
Target Audience: General Public
Make an Appointment, call (512) 972-7233

Jan 30-31 2015
2015 Texas Medical Association (TMA) Winter Conference
Collaborate and learn more about the current legislative session as well as crisis management and changes in the health care landscape.
Austin, TX
Target Audience: Professionals
Details at https://www.texmed.org/Events/ViewSeminars.aspx

Feb 6 2015
Texans Care for Children's 2015 Children's Policy Conference
Austin, TX
Target Audience: General Public and Professionals
Details at http://txchildren.org/conference

Feb 23-24 2015
29th Annual Conference on the Prevention of Child Abuse, "Stop the Harm Before It Starts"
Presented by Prevent Child Abuse Texas
Las Colinas, TX
Target Audience: Professionals
Details at http://www.preventchildabusetexas.org/nextconference.html

Multiple Offerings:
Texas School Safety Center's School Safety Summit ★
9:00a - 4:00p

Through participation in small group discussions, interactive learning and brainstorming activities, participants will learn about current trends, best practices and legislation on various school safety topics.

Target Audience: Administrators and Educators, Law Enforcement, Safety and Security Committee, Support Personnel, and Emergency Management Teams

Jan 14-15 2015
4999 Naaman Forest Blvd, Garland
Register at www.region10.org
Search by date
Register separately for each date

Jan 28-29 2015
411 North 8th Street, Edinburg
Register at www.esc1.net
Click on Workshops
Enter Session ID# 44918

Feb 11-12 2015
209 N. Water Street, Corpus Christi
Register at www.esc2.net
Click on Workshops
Enter Session ID# 1279213

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Child Safety Award Ceremony

Texas is home to many outstanding individuals and organizations that empower our communities, families and individuals to promote child safety. The annual J.C. Montgomery Child Safety Award ceremony highlights the importance of child safety in every aspect of life and recognizes safety leaders every year.

Child safety is everyone's job. Together, we can make our state a safer place for every child in Texas! Follow us on Facebook to find information about the 2015 Child Safety Awards!

2014 Child Safety Award Winners

- **Carolyn Simpson**, South Plains Coalition for Child Abuse Prevention and Go Blue Lubbock
- **Catherine Henry**, Texas School Safety Center
- **Children's Advocacy Center for Denton County**
- **Hays County Standard Response Protocol Task Force,** Hays County Office of Emergency Management
- **Pflugerville Police Department,** "Cool Moves" campaign
- **Susan Rodriguez,** Texas Home Visiting Program
- **Texans Care for Children**

Share your recommendation for the 2015 Child Safety Award Nominations online at www.topdd.state.tx.us

Pictured Above (From Left): Deputy Marshall William Schwall, Commander Bob Klett, Lieutenant Jeri Skrocki, Kharley Smith, Catherine Henry, Eileen Garcia, Corporal Dan Griffith, Carolyn Simpson, Sergeant Jason Smith, Susan Rodriguez, and Dan Leal

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