

Welcome & Introductions	Lisa Elliott, Ph.D.
Approval of the Minutes (ACTION)	Coalition Chair Licensed Psychologist and Clinic Manager Cook Children's
WATCH Video	Lisa Elliott, Ph.D.
Recap: Children's Mental Health Awareness Activities	Lisa Elliott, Ph.D.
HOPES III Grant Application (ACTION)	Courtney Barnard, LMSW Coordinator, Regional Outreach Services Cook Children's
Education Work Group Updates	Lisa Elliott, Ph.D.
Other WATCH Business (ACTION)	Lisa Elliott, Ph.D.
Member Satisfaction Survey Results (ACTION)	Courtney Barnard & All Members
Community Conversations	All Members

**Next WATCH Coalition Meeting**

September 16, 2016 | 12:00 to 1:30 p.m. | Denton Co. Health Dept.

*Vision: "Because every child deserves hope, the Denton County community dedicates its unified resources to equip our children to reach their full potential mentally, physically, and socially to achieve their maximum personal success"*

Engage the Denton Community to support children's health	Sustain a strong network of quality mental health services	Increase access to information and resources for children and parents	Monitor children's health issues for Denton County children
<p>1.1: Manage WATCH to implement the strategic plan according to the bylaws</p> <p>1.2: Maintain a diverse coalition membership</p> <p>1.3: Maintain a strong network of community advisory members</p>	<p>2.1: Facilitate educational opportunities based on evidence informed practices for providers</p> <p>2.2: Assess opportunities to strengthen mental health resources and network</p>	<p>3.1: Manage website for information sharing and social marketing</p> <p>3.2: Increase community knowledge of mental health issues</p> <p>3.3: Partner with local organizations to create children's mental health awareness campaigns</p>	<p>4.1: Maintain knowledge and expertise of children's health issues</p>

## Who is...

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**MHMR Tarrant** is the local mental health authority for Tarrant County. It improves the lives of people with healthcare needs using innovative approaches and collaboration with other community organizations.

**Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) of North Central Texas** provides services to families with children (0-3 years) who have developmental delays and disabilities in 11 counties (including Denton).

**WATCH Coalition** works to increase awareness of and access to mental health services, collaborating with others who are invested in the total wellness of Denton County's children.

**Healthy Outcomes through Prevention & Early Support (HOPES III)** seeks to establish flexible, community-based child abuse and neglect prevention programs in select communities targeting families of children ages 0-5 who are at risk for abuse and neglect.

## Premise of HOPES III grant proposal:

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- Establish a system of care structure to increase families served and to make services more efficient in Tarrant, Denton, Ellis, and Johnson Counties;
- Expand services to children ages 0-5 and with less severe delays and disabilities; and
- Expand support services to family members of these children.

## How do we align?

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Issues of child abuse/neglect and mental health have many common risk and protective factors. Risk factors in one issue often compound factors in the other. We can also use the same protective strategies to keep kids safe and healthy.

Strategic Plan Strategy:

- 1.2 Maintain a diverse coalition membership
- 1.3 Maintain a strong network of community advisory members
- 2.2 Assess opportunities to strengthen mental health resources and network
- 4.1 Maintain knowledge and expertise of children's health issues

### **Role of WATCH (assuming WATCH agrees to participate and the grant is awarded)**

WATCH will dedicate one member to regularly attend monthly Early Childhood Wellness Coalition meetings in Fort Worth, acting as an informant for the needs, gaps, and happenings in Denton County/WATCH. This person will be our "connector".

The connector will regularly attend bimonthly WATCH meetings, be placed on the agenda for 5-10 minutes to give an update on the happenings of the ECWC and progress of the grant/collaboration.

Denton County providers who are sub-contractors on the grant would be(come) active members of WATCH.

MHMR Tarrant/ECWC/connector will give a joint presentation annually to WATCH about the impact of the grant and re-assess needs for the next grant cycle application. This presentation may be of interest to community leaders, so it is likely that WATCH will host a workshop-esque event for this.

WATCH will sign a letter of support for the grant drafted by MHMR Tarrant outlining these items.

### **Benefits to WATCH**

- ✓ Advances WATCH Strategic Plan objectives and strategies.
- ✓ Helps WATCH focus on prevention in younger children.
- ✓ Advances protective factors and promotes positive outcomes in more than one child health issue.
- ✓ Increases our reach for workshop audiences.
- ✓ Brings awareness of WATCH activities to others in our region.

### **Coalition Action:**

Do members approve WATCH involvement in the HOPES III grant application with MHMR Tarrant and its subsequent role in Project HOPES if awarded?

## **Memorandum of Agreement for HOPES RFP**

This proposed Memorandum of Agreement is between MHMR Tarrant and The Wellness Alliance for Total Children's Health of Denton County (WATCH) led by Cook Children's.

### **Both parties will:**

- Support one another's efforts and unique contributions to strengthen families and prevent child abuse and neglect, including the development of proposals that will support enhanced services in Denton County; and
- Collaborate to serve at-risk families and children without duplicating one another's services.

### **MHMR Tarrant will:**

- Prepare and timely submit a Denton County-specific response to the Healthy Outcomes Through Prevention and Early Support Request for Proposal (RFP 530-18-0005, also known as HOPES);
- Include this Memorandum of Agreement in its proposal, thereby satisfying an RFP requirement which requires this submission;
- Communicate the Texas Health and Human Services funding decision to the WATCH Coordinator expeditiously;
- If funded, initiate the discussions necessary for the parties to develop and describe in detail the processes to which both parties agree to:
  - Encourage additional collaboration among area agencies to provide a continuum of services and to ensure that a wide array of client needs are met;
  - Enrich the current community resources by integrating a robust family support system;
  - Identify collaboratively barriers and solutions to service delivery;
  - Collaborate with WATCH and other community partners to address the sustainability of the services and supports beyond the period of the contract resulting from this RFP;
- Within 90 days of contract execution, submit the HOPES Memorandum of Agreement to the Texas Health and Human Services Commission, upon its acceptance by both MHMR Tarrant Chief Executive Officer and WATCH.

### **WATCH will:**

- Authorize MHMR Tarrant to include this Memorandum of Agreement in which WATCH commits to supporting processes and sustainable systems change that both parties agree will strengthen at-risk families; and
- Authorize the WATCH designee(s) to collaborate with MHMR Tarrant in the development of the Healthy Outcomes Through Prevention and Early Support Memorandum of Agreement if the Denton County-specific response is selected for funding.

**Period of Agreement:**

The participating parties agree that the terms of this agreement will continue until the Texas Health and Human Services Commission announces its selection of HOPES grantees, anticipated on/around October 6, 2016.

**Approval:**

I have read and agree to the terms and conditions outlined above.

<hr/> <b>Susan C. Garnett, Chief Executive Officer MHMR Tarrant</b>	<b>Date</b>
	<b>July 18, 2016</b>
<hr/> <b>Larry Tubb, Senior Vice President and Executive Director The Center for Children's Health led by Cook Children's</b>	<b>Date</b>
	<b>July 18, 2016</b>
<hr/> <b>Lisa M. Elliott, PhD, Chair The Wellness Alliance for Total Children's Health of Denton County (WATCH) led by Cook Children's</b>	<b>Date</b>

18 July 2016

Ms. Susan C. Garnett, Chief Executive Officer  
MHMR Tarrant  
3840 Hulen Street, North Tower  
Fort Worth, Texas 76107

**RE: Denton County HOPES**

Dear Susan:

***The Wellness Alliance for Total Children's Health of Denton County (WATCH) led by Cook Children's is pleased to provide this letter of support and commitment as MHMR Tarrant submits its collaborative Denton County HOPES proposal to the Texas Health and Human Services Commission.*** This collaborative proposal advances WATCH's focus on the total wellness of Denton County's children by increasing awareness of and access to mental health services. This mission is consistent with HOPES' focus on developing a continuum of services and resolving broad, community-level issues that impact families with children, ages 0- 5.

As a community-based coalition, WATCH's initiation and focus is informed by Denton County-specific data and its community partners. Initiated in 2008 and updated in 2012 and 2015, Cook Children's rigorously collects data through its Community-wide Children's Health Assessment and Planning Survey (CCHAPS) on the child health issues affecting children, ages 0 – 14, in Denton, Hood, Johnson, Parker, Tarrant, and Wise Counties.

In the context of WATCH's focus on the total wellness of children and HOPES' focus on the prevention of abuse, neglect, and maltreatment, this CCHAPS 2015 data is critical because, in Denton County:

- Children with mental health issues have significantly poorer health, are more likely to have problems in school, and are far more likely to be bullied and/or to bully others than their peers without mental health issues.
- These same children also confront substantially greater environmental risk for abuse and neglect. Children with mental health issues are 4 times more likely to be neglected and 11 times more likely to be sexually abused.
- One in five (20.5%) parents identified that their child with a mental health disorder was harder to care for than others with one in three (30%) reporting that they had been angry with their child at least once per week in the last 30 days.
- Opportunities, resources, and partnerships that support at-risk families and their children, age 0 – 5, in Denton County are urgently needed. Only one in three (34.8%) of parents reported being "very familiar" or "familiar" with types of mental health services in Denton County.
- While Denton County parents reported that about half of all children with a diagnosed mental illness or disorder received medication (51.6%) and counseling (44.4%), smaller proportions received the special services at school (29.4%), support from others (22.2%), and/or case management (3.2%) that also provide critical supports to parents and children in the longer-term. Connecting families to services that support both parents and children through these early years is essential.

***With a confirmed victims of abuse/neglect rate of 4.3/1,000 in 2015, Denton County is among the sixteen counties the Texas Health and Human Services Commission prioritized for family strengthening programs through the HOPES 3 RFP released in May 2016.*** HOPES' focus on building collaborative, sustainable, and innovative family support systems that include a family service coalition and evidence-based practices builds on the collective strength, resources, and networking that WATCH currently facilitates. Comprised of public, nonprofit, and private providers, WATCH provides an existing countywide venue through which critical partners can discuss and resolve broad, community-level issues that impact young children and families.

The WATCH coalition is able to support the Denton County HOPES proposal in the following ways:

- Designate at least one active member to collaborate and liaison between WATCH and the Early Childhood Wellness Coalition;
- Assign bi-monthly coalition meeting time to address needs and give updates pertaining to this collaborative effort;
- Host an annual presentation in collaboration with MHMR Tarrant to assess the impact and future needs of this collaborative effort; and
- Provide a letter of support as MHMR Tarrant submits its Denton County HOPES proposal.

On behalf of the children whose total wellness we are committed to support in Denton County, we look forward to working with you, engaging our current local partners, and broadening the array of partners with whom we will innovate new community strategies and evidence-based services,

Sincerely,

Larry Tubb  
Senior Vice President and Executive Director  
The Center for Children's Health led by Cook  
Children's

Lisa M. Elliott, PhD  
Chair  
The Wellness Alliance for Total Children's  
Health led by Cook Children's

cc: Laura Kender, Division Chief

**20**  
members (of 37)  
answered the survey  
(54% response rate)

**Top reasons for participating:**

1. Coalition provides valuable information and resources **(85%)**
2. Coalition increases community awareness **(75%)**
3. Coalition goals align with my organization's efforts **(75%)**

**Overall, members are satisfied with the progress made on the coalition's priority objectives and agree that WATCH is fulfilling its vision.**

	Somewhat Satisfied	Very Satisfied
Obj. 1: Facilitate and support a strong network of quality mental health services	<b>25%</b>	<b>75%</b>
Obj. 2: Increase access to information and resources for children and parents	<b>25%</b>	<b>75%</b>
Obj. 3: Build community understanding of children's mental health	<b>35%</b>	<b>60%</b>
	Somewhat Agree	Strongly Agree
The WATCH coalition is advancing its vision of unifying resources to equip children to reach their full potential mentally, physically and socially	<b>16%</b>	<b>84%</b>

**Overall, members agree that:**

- Coalition decisions are generally made by the full membership rather than a few select members **(10% Somewhat Disagree; 20% Somewhat Agree; 70% Strongly Agree)**
- Coalition members are given the information required to make good decisions **(35% Somewhat Agree; 65% Strongly Agree)**
- I am satisfied with my involvement in the coalition **(5% Somewhat Disagree; 25% Somewhat Agree; 70% Strongly Agree)**

**Comments from members:**

- ✓ "In the last year or two, I have seen the coalition communicate its vision and purpose more clearly to members and the community. The coalition has become more active and organized, providing important presence in the community and support to service providers. Great strides!"
- ✓ "I thoroughly enjoy my participation in WATCH and find it worthwhile and believe WATCH is affecting change within the community."