



PEI PROVIDER NEWS

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A PEI Newsletter

Volume 6, Issue 27

Welcome to PEI Provider News! Our weekly e-newsletter to providers combines provider resources, stories of interest, exclusive educational opportunities and grant information.

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Coronavirus Resources

[Coronavirus Guidance from DSHS and the Governor](#) is available online for all Texans as we respond to the pandemic. Information changes weekly; it's a good idea to bookmark this page for the most up-to-date, accurate information on current response efforts.

[Help and Hope COVID-19 resource page](#): Visit HelpAndHope.org to find updated resources for providers and the general public.

[Coronavirus Resources for PEI Providers](#): Information on the COVID-19 virus for providers.

[Be Strong Families](#) is hosting a series of COVID-19 related webinars in English (12:00 p.m.) and Spanish (1:30 p.m.) daily. Check out their [website](#) for topics including grieving experiences and expectations, family storytelling workshop, self-care for caregivers, financial resilience, and candid experiences of COVID-19.

[Home Visiting](#): The increased demand for home visiting validates the value that home visitors provide to families during COVID-19. The Center for Health Care Strategies discusses the [importance of home visiting](#) in supporting young children and families during the pandemic.

Webinar: Keeping Infants and Children Healthy During the COVID-19 Pandemic

The HHSC Office of Disability Prevention for Children will present a “Keeping Infants and Children Healthy During the COVID-19 Pandemic” webinar on August 5, 2020.

Featuring speakers from the HHSC Early Childhood Intervention and Texas Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (Texas WIC) programs, the webinar will discuss how these programs are adjusting public education and service delivery strategies to meet the needs of providers, families, and other stakeholders during the COVID-19 pandemic. Presenters will offer information and updates, as well as practical tips and resources aimed at promoting maternal, infant, and child health.

The webinar is scheduled for August 5 from 10-11:15 a.m. [Register now.](#)

Training Tuesdays with PEI



Join us from 2:00-3:00 p.m. Central Standard Time each Tuesday as we explore current, relevant topics based on state trends, featuring PEI speakers and guest experts.

Aug. 4: [Keeping Kids Safe on the Way to School and After](#)

Join us as we explore the current research around child pedestrian safety. Topics include:

- Current statistics and risk factors regarding child pedestrian fatalities and serious incidents
- Child pedestrian safety curriculum
- Programs and initiatives surrounding child pedestrian safety
- Safety in school zones
- Ideas to help prevent pedestrian accidents
- Appropriate caregiver/babysitter selection

Aug. 11: [Communications and COVID-19](#)

The coronavirus pandemic has changed how we interact and share messages with the public, both in-person and virtually. Prevention and Early Intervention Communications staff will provide participants with a review of PEI's own initial responses during the early stages of the pandemic, how that messaging is shifting as we move from crisis communications to a long-term plan, and ways to prepare for a post-pandemic model of communications and public relations.

Be Strong Families Trainings for PEI

Vicarious Trauma/Vicarious Resilience

Understanding how other people's trauma impacts our own well-being is the first step to improving our ability to sustain positive relationships. The workshop begins with learning about and identifying our own signs of trauma exposure response and our emotional triggers. Participants practice strategies for de-escalating their own and others' emotional responses at the moment. Participants will be introduced to Journey to Vitality, a framework for wellness. Space is limited to 30 participants per option. Each participant will be emailed training materials. **This 2-day training will be offered Aug 4th–5th from 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. [Register today.](#)**

For more information email: PEItraining@dfps.state.tx.us.

Connect with the PEI Learning Hub

Domestic Violence in Home Visiting

Domestic violence is a prevalent and recurring issue in home visiting. In this course, you will build your confidence to address domestic violence while working with families as their home visitor. Topics include the impact of violence on family systems, parenting, and child development. Common scenarios and strategies are presented for talking with parents about keeping themselves and their children safe. This course supports you in developing a non-judgmental approach in working with families whose background and circumstances may or may not be differ from your own.

This Achieve OnDemand learning experience qualifies for .3 IACET Continuing Education Units (CEUs). Full completion and/or attendance of the learning experience, a passing score on any post-test(s), and completion of the end of course evaluation are required to be awarded IACET CEUs.

Basics of Home Visiting

Home visitors are committed to the best possible life for babies and their parents. During this course, you will learn how your strengths and motivations will help you achieve this goal and connect with families of all kinds. This course serves as an introduction or valuable refresher on fundamentals such as how to plan for home visits; set goals with families; and handle the unexpected challenges your job presents.

This training can earn you in-service credits towards Endorsement® from your state's Infant Mental Health Association if your state is a member of the Alliance for the Advancement of Infant Mental Health®.

To take the course: Type or paste the course names above into the search bar on the [PEI Learning Hub](#).

- Click on the course and select "request."
- On your transcript select "launch" to begin.
- When the video is complete, go to "completed" courses in your transcript.
- Select "evaluate" to provide feedback.

For questions, contact PEITraining@dfps.state.tx.us.

I am PEI: Kelly Davis



In her five months as Youth and Family Program Specialist with the Prevention and Early Intervention Division, Kelly Davis has managed moving across the country, starting a new career, managing through a pandemic, and starting her first Texas summer.

"I have a history of working with non-profits— working directly with youth, with adults with mental health issues, substance abuse, and those returning from incarceration," she said. "It was great...but as you get older you can get burnt out. I wanted to move more into the policy aspects of public care, to move from groundwork where you don't always get to steer the decisions."

A native of Suffolk, Virginia, Kelly had graduated recently with a master's in public administration in Maryland. When PEI offered her a role, she packed up and moved on her own to a new state and career.

"I was tired of snow and I didn't want to deal with that anymore," she laughed, "Plus I wanted a change!"

What Kelly could not have anticipated was the pandemic.

"I started at PEI the last week of February," she said. "So, I started and...in the next two weeks I was working from home."

When the pandemic lessens, Kelly is looking forward to finding new friends and attending dance classes. In the meantime, she keeps in touch with her family as a source of support.

"Most of my family is on the east coast, with a sister in California," she said. "We're using phone and Zoom calls and the like – I feel like we're talking more than before!"

In her role with the Youth and Family program, Kelly supports Community Youth Development (CYD) and Family and Youth Success providers with technical assistance and requests for applications through the CYD program.

"It's been a busy time gearing up for FY21," she said, "We're wrapping up the ending phase of one Request for Application and starting the process for a new one. I'll also be taking over the CYD newsletter for our providers."

Even with social isolation and the threat of coronavirus, Kelly has found time to enjoy her new home and even make some future plans.

“So far, what I’ve gotten to experience it is great – and even the hot weather isn’t bad, since there’s very little humidity here,” she said. “My birthday is in a few weeks and I plan on adopting a dog!”

PEIRS Application Cybersecurity Training

All users of the PEIRS application are required to complete DFPS-approved cybersecurity training each year. If you access PEIRS and have not already completed this requirement, please visit the [DFPS Cybersecurity Training Page](#).