



For Immediate Release  
October 7, 2019

Contact: Elaine Cray  
919.749.5394  
elaine@txcampaign.org

## **FIVE HOUSTON HEALTH CENTERS ACHIEVE CERTIFICATION AS AN ADOLESCENT CENTERED ENVIRONMENT**

Five Houston-based health centers recently completed an 18-month evidence-based process (March 2018 – August 2019) to improve care for adolescents. These clinics comprise the second cohort of the Texas Youth-Friendly Initiative (TYFI), a foundation-funded project led by the Texas Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy. TYFI builds the capacity of health centers to improve care for youth ages 10-24. Clinics participate in the Adolescent Champion Model created and led by the [Adolescent Health Initiative](#) at the University of Michigan. All five clinics were certified as an Adolescent Centered Environment.

Below is a list of Cohort 2 Houston graduates and corresponding certification levels:

- Legacy Community Health Services, Inc. ([Bissonnet Clinic](#)) [Silver]
- Planned Parenthood Gulf Coast ([Northville Health Center](#)) [Bronze]
- Spring Branch Community Health Center ([Pitner Clinic](#)) [Bronze]
- Teen Clinic, [UT Physicians Pediatric Center Specialists-TMC](#) [Silver]
- Vecino Health Centers ([Airline Children's Clinic](#)) [Silver]

“The Texas Campaign is committed to supporting adolescents and creating healthy environments for teens to access care,” says Molly Clayton, Executive Director, Texas Campaign. “Through our work with these Houston-based clinics over the past 18 months, we know that they are dedicated to serving young people in their community and we are thrilled that they have completed the certification process.”

Program Specialist, Kaleigh Cornelison, from the Adolescent Health Initiative shares, “One of our core values at AHI is collaboration and it has been a joy to collaborate with all of our partners in Texas to implement the Adolescent Champion Model. It’s amazing to see the accomplishments of all of these clinics throughout their work on this project and we’re excited to see what other successes can come out of our partnerships in Texas moving forward.”

TYFI seeks to implement standards of excellence based on global and national best practices and adapted for Texas' unique demographic and political context. Clinics form a community of practice through participation in the [Adolescent Champion Model](#), an 18-month process consisting of a multi-faceted intervention to address a health center’s environment, policies, practices, and culture. This includes supporting improvements in staff knowledge and attitudes around provision of adolescent care as well as patient satisfaction with services received.

Four additional Houston-based clinics are participating in Cohort Three of TYFI and will wrap up participation in February 2020. A complete list of participating health centers from the first three cohorts is available on the project website: [www.healthtyxyouth.org](http://www.healthtyxyouth.org). In addition, this web platform houses a vast array of resources to help youth-serving health professionals across Texas seeking to improve care for Texas teens.

## **Project Partners include:**

### **The Texas Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy**

The Texas Campaign, a statewide nonpartisan organization, aims to reduce teen pregnancy through research, advocacy, collaboration, and training. They provide statewide leadership around this issue by focusing on what works and connecting Texas communities to the data and tools they need to make an impact. For more information, visit <http://txcampaign.org>.

### **Adolescent Health Initiative**

The Adolescent Health Initiative (AHI) provides youth-driven and innovative approaches to improving adolescent health care. Their work is expansive and intentional. They work with health organizations across the country to cultivate more inclusive, youth centered environments. This work is done through coaching and technical assistance, resource development, educational programming, and strategic partnerships. They also support and facilitate a teen advisory group that informs AHI decision-making processes. For more information, visit <http://adolescenthealthinitiative.org>.

### **Cardea**

Cardea is a national organization that provides training, organizational development, and research and evaluation services to improve organizations' abilities to deliver accessible, high quality, culturally proficient, and compassionate services to their clients. For more information, visit <http://www.cardeaservices.org/>.

### **People's Community Clinic**

People's Community Clinic is among the nation's oldest independent clinics offering comprehensive health and wellness care to uninsured and underinsured individuals. Its mission is to improve the health of medically underserved and uninsured Central Texans by delivering high quality, affordable health care with respect and dignity. For more information, visit <https://www.austinpcc.org/>.

### **Baylor Teen Health Clinic**

The Baylor Teen Health Clinic is a system of 10 community and school-based clinics that provide comprehensive medical care, including primary care immunizations, sports medicine services, reproductive care and more, via 30,000 visits to medically underserved and mostly uninsured adolescents and young adults each year. For more information, visit <https://www.bcm.edu/healthcare/care-centers/teen-health-clinic>.