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CRCG Events Calendar

Apr. 16 — CRCG Bridge Call, 2-3 p.m. CT

May 21 — CRCG Bridge Call, 2-3 p.m. CT

May — CRCG Webinar Series, date to be announced

Jun. 18 — CRCG Bridge Call, 2-3 p.m. CT

Jul. 17-19 — 2019 Texas System of Care and CRCG Conference, Austin, TX

CRCG State Office Updates

Preview of 2016-2018 Report

The State CRCG Office prepares a statewide report on CRCG activities every two years for the Texas Legislature, Governor, and chief executive officers of state agencies. The report summarizes the number of people served by CRCGs, barriers to services, and other information related to improving the delivery of services to people with complex needs.

As of January 2019, there were 125 distinct CRCGs covering 221 counties in Texas. A web-based survey collected information from CRCGs due to changes in state data reporting systems over the past few years. Results of the survey and report highlights will be shared in early summer after the report is released.

Many CRCGs shared success stories related to successful resource coordination, improved agency collaboration, avoiding placement in facilities, increasing self-sufficiency, and meeting the needs of entire families. These stories will be featured in the [Spotlight on CRCGs](#) section of this newsletter.

Legislative Updates

The 86th Texas Legislature, Regular Session, 2019 began in January. Learn about new bills that pertain to CRCGs and track them through the [Texas Legislature Online](#) website.

Resources

CRCG website

The [CRCG website](#) has great resources for leaders and members, including guidebooks covering all things CRCGs, and resources for families and community members.

Webinar Recordings

The State CRCG Office webinars bring valuable resources and information to CRCG partners and members. Click the links below to view previous recordings.

[CRCGs Developing Vital Partnerships](#)

[Empowering CRCGs in 2019 and Beyond](#)

[CRCG Data Collection System Training](#)

[Mental Health in Focus](#)

[Youth in Placement](#)

[CRCG and Permanency Planning](#)

Sharing Is Caring

Please share our newsletter with your colleagues or anyone that might benefit from this information!

Contact Us

We would love to hear from you! If you have thoughts, concerns, comments, ideas or anything else that you'd like to share, please contact the State CRCG Office.

CRCG@hhsc.state.tx.us

512-206-5255

CRCG Site Visits

The State CRCG Office and Workgroup welcomes the opportunity to engage and visit with local CRCG partners. Local meetings increase our awareness of community strengths and needs, which improves our ability to provide effective technical assistance and support. Over the past three months, the State CRCG Office staff members have benefited from observing and meeting with CRCG representatives in Robertson and Runnels counties. Robertson County convened a large group of community partners to reinstitute a dormant CRCG, and Runnels County held their bi-monthly staffing.

Thank you for sharing of your time, experiences, best practices, and challenges. State CRCG Office staff learn so much during these site visits and look forward to visiting more counties in the future. Please reach out to the State CRCG Office if you would like to schedule a site visit or discuss other opportunities for technical assistance and support. You can email the office at CRCG@hhsc.state.tx.us or call 512-206-5255.

Spotlight on CRCGs

The State CRCG Office acknowledges efforts and successes of different CRCGs in this spotlight section. To share success stories for upcoming newsletters, send an email to CRCG@hhsc.state.tx.us.

Partnering Helps Everyone

The Stephens County CRCG learned that school counselors in the area needed more mentors for students. To help meet this need, CRCG members volunteered as mentors. This strengthens the relationship between the CRCG and schools while assisting youth and children in the community.

Collaborating to Fund Services

The Permian Basin CRCG, supporting Midland and Ector counties, coordinated with a family and Child Protective Services (CPS) to allow CPS to acquire joint managing conservatorship of a child who was already in placement for treatment for a severe emotional disturbance. CPS intervened to help pay for the remaining cost of that placement. The child completed the program successfully and returned home. There have been no new incidents and the family has been functioning successfully for over a year.

Upcoming CRCG Events

2019 Texas System of Care and CRCG Conference

July 17-19, 2019, Austin, Texas

The State CRCG Office and Texas System of Care (SOC) are partnering to host a [joint SOC and CRCG conference in July 2019](#). This is an interagency conference for youth, family members, state leaders, child-serving providers, and community leaders to learn about the parallels and connections between SOC and CRCGs, participate in networking opportunities, and to share best practices. Information regarding registration and costs will be released soon. The Call for Presenters is open through April 17 and applications may be submitted online at [Mission Possible: Call for Presenters](#).

CRCG Bridge Call Series

The State CRCG Office offers a monthly bridge call series for local CRCG chairs and members to share ideas, discuss challenges, and network. Bridge calls are held every third Tuesday of the month at 2:00 p.m. (CT). During each call, a CRCG leader presents an overview of group structure and processes followed by audience questions and discussion relevant to CRCGs. Mark your calendars for the upcoming bridge calls and join other CRCGs for collaborative discussions!

Dial-in number: (877) 820-7831, Access code: 606519#

- April 16, 2:00–3:00 p.m. CT / 1:00–2:00 p.m. MT
- May 21, 2:00–3:00 p.m. CT / 1:00–2:00 p.m. MT
- June 18, 2:00–3:00 p.m. CT / 1:00–2:00 p.m. MT

CRCG Webinar Series

The State CRCG Office offers webinars that cover resources, programs, and technical assistance to support CRCG efforts. A notice will be sent to all CRCGs and a registration link will be posted on the [CRCG website Resources page](#) when each webinar is scheduled. The next webinar will occur in May 2019. Recordings for past webinars are available on the [Resources page](#).

CRCG Partner Agency Updates

HHSC Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities and Behavioral Health Services

HHSC released an update to the *Statewide Behavioral Health Strategic Plan* and the *Foundation for the IDD Strategic Plan*. The [Second Edition](#) is available online.

HHSC Office of Mental Health Coordination

The Office of Mental Health Coordination coordinates policy and delivery of mental health services throughout Texas. The following topical resources are recommended for providers, community organizations, and the public.

Suicide Prevention Resources

The Suicide Prevention Resource Center offers a new series of [micro-learning videos](#) about lived experiences, safety plans, and aftercare. A more detailed video regarding [evidence-based treatments and brief interventions](#) is also available on the [Suicide Prevention Resource Center website](#).

Veterans Resources

[TexVet.org](#) is an online clearinghouse of resources for veterans and their families. All listed resources are assessed to assure they truly serve veterans and do not mislead, misrepresent, or profit from veterans.

Trauma-Informed Care

Two guides are available related to trauma-informed care in Texas. The Children's Commission released [Building a Trauma-Informed Child Welfare System: A Blueprint](#), a framework for improving outcomes by creating a system that is trauma-informed and trauma-responsive. The Center for Health Care Strategies created a brief that outlines practical steps health care organizations can take to become trauma-informed, titled [Laying the Groundwork for Trauma-Informed Care](#).

Mental Health Wellness for Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

The [Mental Health Wellness for Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities](#) e-learning training series has been updated. Three new training modules are included that teach about integrated approaches for working with people who have an intellectual or developmental disability and co-occurring behavioral health challenges.

DSHS Children with Special Health Care Needs Systems Development Group

The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) [Children with Special Health Care Needs \(CSHCN\) Systems Development Group](#) supports population-based services for children with special health care needs related to the Title V Block Grant. CSHCN partners with community-based contractors around Texas to provide support for families with children and youth with special health care needs and disabilities. Services may include in-home or center-based respite, parent to parent connections, educational trainings and workshops, support groups, community recreational activities, and more. Not all services are available in all parts of the state. Case management for families is also available through DSHS regional offices.

Needs Assessment Survey

Every five years, DSHS conducts a statewide needs assessment of families of CSHCN and disabilities and young adults with disabilities. Survey distribution will begin in April and the findings will guide work through 2025.

Learning Collaboratives

The CSHCN Systems Development Group leads two statewide learning collaboratives that meet quarterly by teleconference call to share knowledge, implementation strategies, and best practices. Providers, youth, young adults, parents, caregivers, representatives from health care plans, hospital and university systems, and local community organizations are invited to participate. The next call dates are:

[Medical Home Learning Collaborative](#)

April 17, 10:00-11:30 a.m. CT

[Texas Title V Transition Workgroup](#)

May 23, 12:00-1:30 p.m. CT

For registration details related to the learning collaboratives or to learn more about CSHCN programs, email Ivy Goldstein, State CSHCN Health Coordinator, at Ivy.Goldstein@dshs.state.tx.us or call 512-776-3406.

Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs

Did you know Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) helped make 69 renter- and owner-occupied homes accessible for persons with disabilities in 2018? That is just one fact included in the recently released [2019 State of Texas Low Income Housing Plan and Annual Report](#), an in-depth look at Texas housing needs and distribution of TDHCA resources. TDHCA commits more than \$1 billion annually to help serve extremely low- to moderate-income families and individuals. Through multiple programs, such as the Amy Young Barrier Removal Program, the Homeowner Rehabilitation Assistance Program, or the Weatherization Assistance Program, staff work hand-in-hand with partners around the state to meet the needs of vulnerable Texans.

[TDHCA's website](#) offers additional information about programs and the [Help for Texans](#) online database provides contact information for housing and housing-related programs funded or operated by TDHCA and other service providers. To find assistance, select the type of assistance needed, enter a city or county, and click on the "Find Help" button.

For additional assistance, TDHCA offers a Housing Resource Information Helpline available by phone at 800-525-0657 or email at info@tdhca.state.tx.us.

Other News and Events

Conferences

Texas Parent to Parent Conference

Save the date for the Texas Parent to Parent 15th Annual Statewide Conference in San Antonio, June 21-22, 2019. Through seminars and face-to-face networking, parents, self-advocates, family members, caregivers, and professionals learn from each other as they continue their unique journeys caring for a child with a disability or a special health care need. Conference and registration information are available on the [Texas Parent to Parent website](#).

TNOYS Conference on Services to Youth and Families

The Texas Network of Youth Services (TNOYS) 36th Annual Conference on Services to Youth and Families is scheduled for June 25-28, 2019 in Houston, Texas. The conference will bring together stakeholders in youth services from

across Texas to collaborate on best practices, receive training and support, learn from each other, and ultimately strengthen services to youth. Attendees will participate in dynamic, engaging, and collaborative sessions that allow adults and youth to build concrete skills, learn what's on the cutting edge in youth services, earn continuing education credit, and explore how their unique talents can contribute to the future of Texas' youth. Keynote speakers include trafficking survivor Alyssa Beck and Houston Police Department Chief Art Acevedo. [Learn more and register for the TNOYS conference](#) online.

Adult Protective Services Conference

Save the date for the 36th Annual Adult Protective Services (APS) Conference, November 19-22, 2019 in Austin, Texas. This is an annual gathering of professionals in adult protective services, law enforcement, criminal justice, social work, counseling, and beyond. Sessions will focus on self-care, service delivery, collaborating, casework practice, financial exploitation, investigations, innovations, and more. [Watch for more information at the APS conference website.](#)