

## *In this issue...*

- [CRCG Site Visits](#)
- [Legislative Updates](#)
- [Spotlight on CRCGs](#)
- [Upcoming CRCG Events](#)
- [CRCG Partner Agency Updates](#)
- [Other News and Events](#)
- [Resources](#)
- [Sharing Is Caring](#)
- [Contact Us](#)

---

## *CRCG Events Calendar*

**Oct. 15** — CRCG Bridge Call,  
2-3 p.m. CT

**Nov. 19** — CRCG Bridge Call,  
2-3 p.m. CT

**Dec. 17** — CRCG Bridge Call,  
2-3 p.m. CT

## **CRCG State Office Updates**

### **2019 Texas System of Care and CRCG Conference**

The State CRCG Office and Texas System of Care held their first joint conference in July in Austin, TX. Over 200 youth, family members, state leaders, child-serving providers, and community leaders gathered to explore best practices for coordinating systems and services for young people with significant mental health and cross-agency needs.

The three-day event showcased inspiring keynote speakers, Tonier Cain-Muldrow and Liz Manley; panel presentations from family members and youth; and a broad range of breakout sessions, including sessions hosted by Bosque County and Travis County CRCGs. Participants heard about exciting initiatives from across the state, networked with other leaders and stakeholders, and were encouraged to explore ideas to increase community collaboration, and incorporate system of care values throughout their organizations and processes.

The State CRCG Office would like to thank everyone who attended, and who helped to plan this wonderful event!

## **State CRCG Office Welcomes New Team Members**

Regine Mojica joined the CRCG team in August as a Program Specialist. Prior to CRCG, Regine worked at the Florida Department of Health and the Veterans Affairs Brain Rehabilitation Research Center. In these roles, she developed partnerships to achieve a wide variety of public health goals and objectives, presented local policy solutions to improve health outcomes to various decision makers and stakeholders, and developed several resources that facilitated the adoption of best practice health policies in cities and counties across Florida. Regine has both Master of Public Health and Bachelor of Science in Health Science degrees from the University of Florida.

Amelia Somers joined the state CRCG team in September as a Program Specialist. Prior to her new position, she worked on the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) Children's Mental Health team as a Program Specialist. In this role, she provided policy and programmatic oversight of children's community mental health services at Local Mental Health Authorities and Local Behavioral Health Authorities across the state. Additionally, Amelia has over ten years of direct clinical experience providing mental health and behavioral health services to children, youth, adults, and families in a variety of settings such as schools, state supported living centers, and Applied Behavior Analysis therapy clinics. Amelia has a Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology from the University of Mississippi and a Specialist in School Psychology degree from Texas State University. She is both a Licensed Specialist in School Psychology and a Licensed Behavior Analyst.

The State CRCG Office is excited to welcome these new staff members and look forward to increasing our capacity to support local CRCGs.



Regine Mojica



Amelia Somers

## 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.

[Linking Children and Families to Prevention Programs](#)

[CRCGs Developing Vital Partnerships](#)

[Empowering CRCGs in 2019 and Beyond](#)

[CRCG Data Collection System Training](#)

## 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](mailto: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.

The State CRCG Office would like to thank the Williamson County CRCG for our recent visit. State office staff enjoyed meeting CRCG leaders and members, hearing about the wonderful resources available throughout the area, and participating in a staffing that was welcoming and supportive to the family being served.

Thank you for sharing of your time, experiences, best practices, and challenges. 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](mailto:crcg@hhsc.state.tx.us) or call 512-206-5255.

## Legislative Updates

---

Senate Bill 241 was passed during the 86th Texas Legislature, Regular Session, 2019. The bill amends language in Sections 531.421(3) and (4) of the Government Code by repealing the word "consortium" and replacing it with "commission." Government Code 431.422 requires local CRCGs to submit an evaluation/report to the commission (HHSC/Texas System of Care [TxSOC]) regarding their assessment of what system of care services are needed and available to children with severe emotional disturbances in their communities, and recommendations for policy and statutory changes, as well as overcoming barriers. The commission is responsible for creating a summary report based on the evaluations and must include recommendations

for policy and statutory changes at each agency that is involved in the provision of systems of care services and the outcome expected from implementing each recommendation. The summary report may also include recommendations for the statewide expansion of sites participating in the TxSOC and the integration of services provided at those sites with services provided by CRCGs.

The State CRCG Office is developing a survey to capture the required information, and will distribute to local CRCGs in January 2020.

Learn about bills that pertain to CRCGs and track them through the [Texas Legislature Online](#) website.

## 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](mailto:CRCG@hhsc.state.tx.us).

### Quad County CRCG

The State CRCG Office would like to acknowledge the Quad County CRCG for their wonderful work with individuals and families, and share their inspiring success story:

“The Quad County CRCG serves San Patricio, Bee, Live Oak, and Aransas counties. One particular CRCG meeting changed the group forever. This group typically staffed cases only for youth when members met with a family of two young grandchildren and their grandparents as new guardians. The children had a serious history of trauma. As the CRCG members explored the situation with the family, the meeting turned into a crisis. The grandfather was a veteran with PTSD and many health problems. While listening to the group, he revealed he had been struggling with thoughts of suicide. The CRCG members realized they weren’t only there to help his grandchildren but needed to help him too. The CRCG expanded its membership to serve adults and met with the family several times to assure everyone’s needs were met. The family signed on to services quickly and the change was amazing. The grandparents were thankful during the last staffing because they felt supported without judgment through the entire process.

CRCG members have learned over the years that educating people, being culturally-sensitive, and addressing urgent needs first is pivotal to developing family buy-in, which leads to better outcomes." --*Deb Saenz, Quad County CRCG Chair*

## Upcoming CRCG Events

---

### **CRCG Bridge Call Series**

The State CRCG Office offers a monthly bridge call series for local CRCG leaders 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: 952056#*

- October 15, 2:00-3:00 p.m. CT / 1:00-2:00 p.m. MT
- November 19, 2:00-3:00 p.m. CT / 1:00-2:00 p.m. MT
- December 17, 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. Recordings for past webinars are available on the [Resources page](#).

## CRCG Partner Agency Updates

---

### **Department of State Health Services (DSHS)**

The Children with Special Health Care Needs (CSHCN) Systems Development Group supports population-based services for children with special health care needs relating to the Title V Block Grant and is part of the Maternal and Child Health Section at the Texas Department of State Health Services. The program 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.

Every five years, the program conducts a statewide needs assessment of families of CSHCN and disabilities and young adults with disabilities. We are currently distributing the surveys and reaching out for help in getting the word out to families and young adults. Findings from the 2020 Needs Assessment will guide our priorities and work through 2025.

The links to the parent survey (with an option to participate for young adults) are here: [English](#) or [Spanish](#).

The program leads two statewide learning collaboratives that meet quarterly by teleconference call to share knowledge, implementation strategies and best practices. Providers, youth and young adults, parents, caregivers, as well as representatives from health care plans, hospital and university systems, and local community organizations are invited to participate. Here is more information:

**Medical Home Learning Collaborative, Wednesday, October 16, 2019, 10:00 am – 11:30 am**

**Texas Title V Transition Workgroup, Wednesday, November 13, 2019, 12:00 pm – 1:30 pm**

For Medical Home and Transition to Adulthood Learning Collaborative registration details and more information about our program, please contact:

*Ivy Goldstein, State CSHCN Health Coordinator*

[Ivy.Goldstein@dshs.texas.gov](mailto:Ivy.Goldstein@dshs.texas.gov)

(512) 776-3406

## Other News and Events

---

### Conferences

#### Adult Protective Services Conference

*November 19-22*

*Austin, Texas*

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.

[Register](#)

### **4th Annual Summit on Advancing Behavioral Health Collaboratives**

*November 6, 2019*

*Austin, Texas*

The 4th annual ABC summit, titled "*Strong Schools: Advancing Student Wellness and Resilience in Texas*," will share evidence-based best practices, exemplars of outstanding programs, strategies from the Texas Education Agency to ensure success, and Texas' Project AWARE plan. This summit is scheduled as a preconference event at the 2019 Annual Conference on Advancing School Mental Health (November 7–9).

[Register](#)

### **2019 Annual Conference on Advancing School Mental Health**

*November 7–9, 2019*

*Austin, Texas*

The 2019 Advancing School Mental Health conference is the nation's premier interdisciplinary conference on school mental health. The conference brings together local, state, national, and international experts to advance knowledge and skills related to school mental health practice, research, training and policy. Conference attendees include educators, administrators, student instructional support personnel, health and mental health practitioners, family members, youth, policymakers, researchers, advocates, child-serving agency and organization staff.

[Register](#)