

In this issue...

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

CRCG Events Calendar

October 13 – Monthly Leader Training, 10-11 a.m. CDT

October 19 – CRCG Bridge Call, 1:30-3 p.m. CDT

November 10 – Monthly Leader Training, 10-11 a.m. CST

November 16 – CRCG Bridge Call, 1:30-3 p.m. CST

December 8 – Monthly Leader Training, 10-11 a.m. CST

State CRCG Office Updates

2021 Texas System of Care and CRCG Conference

The 2021 Texas System of Care and CRCG Conference, which occurred on July 27-29, 2021, was a huge success! The virtual conference drew 437 participants from diverse regions across Texas. Participants included CRCG leaders and members, state leaders, community leaders, child-serving providers, youth and family members.

Dynamic speakers and panelists shared their expertise in behavioral health and provided best practices and innovative strategies for how to shift from coordination to authentic collaboration when working with providers and young people with significant mental health and cross-agency needs. Many of the speakers and panelists were youth and family members with lived experience. They shared their personal stories of navigating and working in youth-serving systems, which were inspiring, impactful, and provided the audience with many great takeaways.

The conference was an immersive experience with several fun and engaging events, including a game night, documentary screening, and several networking opportunities. These events allowed attendees to share resources and build relationships with other participants.

Thank you to the CRCG leaders and members who attended and helped plan the conference. We could not have implemented such a successful event without your support and participation.

Nominations Open for the 2021 CRCG Recognition Awards

The State CRCG Office is excited to announce the 2021 CRCG Recognition Awards! We are currently seeking nominations to acknowledge the dedication and accomplishments of local CRCGs and their leaders and members across Texas.

There are two nomination categories this year:

- CRCG Shining Star Award
- Outstanding CRCG Award

We encourage CRCG Shining Star Award nominations for CRCG leaders and members who exemplify knowledge, service, and dedication to their CRCG and make a positive difference in their community and Outstanding CRCG Award nominations for CRCGs who exemplify service, dedication and make a positive impact on their community. Nominations are open to anyone who has been impacted by or knows of the great work CRCGs do. CRCG leaders can self-nominate or nominate another CRCG.

Nominations for the awards are open from October 1 through November 5, 2021. Please email the State CRCG Office at CRCG@hsc.state.tx.us to request a nomination form.

CRCG Monthly Leader Training Series

The State CRCG Office is excited to announce a new training opportunity for CRCG leaders. The monthly leader training series launched in September 2021, and is the final component of the state office's comprehensive training curriculum, which includes: a new CRCG handbook and toolkit; expanded webinar series; and more opportunities for CRCGs to learn from each other. The monthly trainings offer a dedicated time to provide training and technical assistance to new and existing CRCG leaders, answer questions about the CRCG process, and explore the tools and resources available to leaders as they navigate their roles. More information about these trainings is in the [Upcoming CRCG Events](#) section of this newsletter.

CRCG Site Visits

Burleson County CRCG

The State CRCG Office would like to thank the Burleson County CRCG for inviting us to join them at their August CRCG meeting. The hybrid meeting allowed members and other local partners to attend either virtually or in-person at the community expo center. CRCG Chair, Albert Ramirez, did an excellent job facilitating the meeting and provided an overview of the purpose of the CRCG and its impact on the community and current needs. Over 50 community members were in attendance and they had the opportunity to share information about their agency or organization and the services they offer. The State CRCG Team explained the role of our office and how we provide support to local CRCGs across the state. The meeting provided a great opportunity to network and learn about different types of community resources available to support children, youth, individuals, and families with complex needs. Also, the meeting highlighted the excellent collaboration happening in Burleson County.

Taylor and Callahan Counties CRCG

The State CRCG Office had the opportunity to visit the Taylor and Callahan County CRCG's virtual meeting in August 2021. The meeting was led by CRCG leader, Janell Williams, and attended by representatives from a variety of community agencies and organizations. The CRCG presented two staffings for youth with complex needs. The CRCG members did an excellent job of identifying the strengths and needs of the youth and families while collaborating to make recommendations for appropriate services and supports. Additionally, the State CRCG Office had the opportunity to discuss the vacant CRCG data reporter role with the CRCG members at the meeting. As a result of the discussion, CRCG member, Catherine Briseno, stepped up to take on the data reporter role for the CRCG. The State CRCG Office thanks Ms. Williams and Ms. Briseno for the time and effort they put into leading and supporting the CRCG.

State CRCG Office Available for Virtual Technical Assistance

The State CRCG Office is available for virtual training and technical assistance, including help navigating virtual platforms or attending practice meetings. Please email the State CRCG Office at CRCG@hpsc.state.tx.us or call us at 512-206-5255 for assistance.

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. New and recently updated resources include:

[CRCG Training Toolkit](#)

[CRCG Partner Recruiting Toolkit](#)

[The Role of Family and Peer Representatives in Your CRCG \(PDF\)](#)

[CRCG Task Delegation Worksheet](#)

Webinar Recordings

The State CRCG Office webinars bring valuable resources and information to CRCG partners and members. Visit the [CRCG Training and Technical Assistance webpage](#) to view past webinar recordings.

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

Spotlight on CRCGs

Coleman County CRCG and Harrison and Panola Counties CRCG

The State CRCG Office is excited to announce that there are two new CRCGs that have recently formed, the Coleman County CRCG and the Harrison and Panola counties CRCG.

Special thanks to Bobby Mangham, CRCG chair of the Upshur County CRCG, who helped identify and support the new leaders of the Harrison and Panola counties CRCG, Justina Boone and Justin Landrum. The State CRCG Office would like to give Ms. Boone and Mr. Landrum a warm welcome and we look forward to hearing about all the great work that you do.

Thank you to Katie Snyder and Michelle Wells, CRCG leaders of the Brown County CRCG, for temporarily providing CRCG coverage in Coleman County. Ms. Snyder and Ms. Wells were able to build relationships in Coleman County during this time and find community members to start a new CRCG. We are happy to announce that Laura Germany and Melissa Nunez will be the new co-chairs for the Coleman County CRCG. We appreciate you for stepping up to take on these leadership roles.

There are seven counties that remain in need of coverage, including Lipscomb, Garza, Sutton, Edwards, Real, Kinney, and Blanco counties. Efforts are underway to find partner agency representatives and community members to establish CRCGs in these counties. If you are interested in leading the effort in any of the remaining counties, please email the State CRCG Office at CRCG@hhsc.state.tx.us.

The State CRCG Office acknowledges efforts and successes of various CRCGs. To share success stories for upcoming newsletters, email the State CRCG Office at CRCG@hhsc.state.tx.us.

Upcoming CRCG Events

CRCG Monthly Bridge Call and Regional Cohort Meetings

The State CRCG Office hosts a monthly bridge call for local CRCG leaders and members to share ideas, discuss challenges and network. During the call, CRCG leaders have an opportunity to join regional cohort breakouts to connect and build partnerships with other leaders in their region.

CRCG leaders receive a monthly calendar invite for the bridge call that includes the Microsoft Teams information to join the meeting. CRCG members can contact their CRCG leaders to obtain the meeting information. For questions or additional information, please email the State CRCG Office at CRCG@hhsc.state.tx.us.

- Oct. 19, 2021, 1:30 –3 p.m. CDT / 12:30 –2 p.m. MDT
- Nov. 16, 2021, 1:30 –3 p.m. CST / 12:30 –2 p.m. MST

Monthly Leader Training

The State CRCG Office hosts a monthly leader training for both new and existing leaders to provide tailored support to CRCGs. The first half of each monthly training is geared towards new leaders and includes an overview of the State CRCG Office, the new training toolkit, and a discussion about how to best support them as they get started in their new role. The second half of the training highlights specific topics of interest and allows time for questions.

All CRCG leaders are welcome to join each month for the entire training or the second half. The training occurs every second Wednesday of the month from 10 –11 a.m. CT. A calendar invite will be sent to all CRCG leaders with the meeting information. For questions or additional information, please email the State CRCG Office at CRCG@hhsc.state.tx.us.

- Oct. 13, 2021, 10-11 a.m. CDT / 9-10 a.m. MDT
- Nov. 10, 2021, 10.-11 a.m. CST / 9-10 a.m. MST
- Dec. 8, 2021, 10-11 a.m. CST / 9 a.m.-10 a.m. MST

CRCG Webinars

There are no upcoming CRCG webinars scheduled at this time. Recordings for past webinars are available online on the [CRCG Training and Technical Assistance webpage](#).

CRCG Partner Agency Updates

Health and Human Services Commission

Early Childhood Intervention Program

Educating Parents About Developmental Milestones

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention's [Learn the Signs. Act Early.](#) program aims to improve early identification of children with developmental delays, so families can get the services and support they need.

Learn the Signs. Act Early. offers a variety of materials and tools to help educate families about developmental milestones and how to help their child grow and thrive. These materials are designed to promote discussions between parents and professionals about developmental concerns to aid in the identification of children with developmental delays. Materials are free, research-based, and available in English and Spanish.

Materials can be customized with local contact information for organizations wanting to incorporate them into their own campaign to identify children with developmental delays and support families.

Some of the materials include:

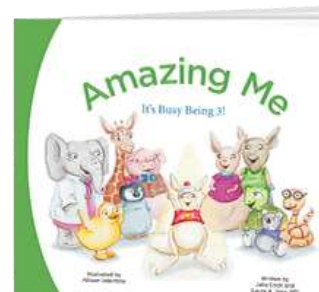
- Developmental milestones checklists;
- Milestone Tracker mobile app for iOS and Android;
- Children's books;
- *Watch me!* A free one-hour training for early care and education providers; and
- How to Help Your Child and How to Talk with the Doctor tip sheets.

For more information on how to order materials visit [Learn the Signs. Act Early Materials.](#)

The Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) program works with families with children birth to 36 months old, with developmental delays, disabilities, or certain [medical diagnoses](#) that may impact development. ECI services support families as



A children's book from the Learn the Signs. Act Early. program called Baby's Busy Day: Being One is So Much Fun!



A children's book from the Learn the Signs. Act Early. program called Amazing Me: It's Busy Being 3!

they learn how to help their children grow and learn. If you have concerns about a child's development, visit the [ECI Program Search](#) page to find the ECI program in your area or call the HHSC Office of the Ombudsman at 877-787-8999, select a language, then select Option 3.

Children's Mental Health

New Grant Opportunities for Children's Mental Health Services

The Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) is piloting two new Children's Mental Health programs: Children's Crisis Respite and a Children's Mental Health System Navigator (CMH-SN). HHSC's Behavioral Health Services recently released broadcast messages to the local mental health authorities and local behavioral health authorities (LMHA/LBHAs) announcing both pilot opportunities.

For the Children's Crisis Respite pilot, selected programs will address the mental health needs of children through crisis respite services while the CMH-SN pilot will focus on developing enhanced partnerships with child-serving systems and resources to promote greater understanding and collaboration to support the provision of services and treatment for both children and adolescents.

Children's Mental Health is excited about the opportunity to collaborate with the LMHAs/LBHAs on the new pilot programs. Children's Mental Health will keep the CRCG community posted about the progress of the pilot programs.

Residential Treatment Center Project – New Referral Source

Senate Bill 642, 87th Legislature, Regular Session, 2021 amended the referral pathway for the Residential Treatment Center (RTC) Project by eliminating the requirement for the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) to conduct a child abuse or neglect investigation before allowing a child to participate in the RTC Project. As of June 2021, families were no longer required to contact DFPS to request support through the RTC Project. Instead families can contact their LMHA/LBHA to request a referral to the program and the LMHA/LBHA will submit a referral to the RTC Project directly.

For more information about the Children's Mental Health grant programs and the RTC Project, email the Children's Mental Health team at Childrens_MH@hhs.texas.gov.

Department of State Health Services

Children with Special Health Care Needs

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 (DSHS).

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.

The program leads two statewide learning collaboratives that meet quarterly by webinar to share knowledge, implementation strategies, and best practices. The meetings are open to everyone interested, including youth and young adults, parents, and providers; as well as representatives from local community organizations, hospital and university systems, and health care plans.

Upcoming calls are scheduled on the following dates:

Medical Home Learning Collaborative

Wednesday, Oct. 20, 2021, 10–11:30 a.m. CDT

Texas Title V Transition Learning Collaborative

Wednesday, Nov. 2, 2021, Noon–1:30 p.m. CST

Meeting dates are subject to change.

For more information about the Learning Collaboratives and the CSHCN program, email Ivy Goldstein, State CSHCN Health Coordinator at ivy.goldstein@dshs.texas.gov.

Other News and Events

38th Annual Adult Protective Services Conference

The 38th Annual Adult Protective Services (APS) Conference hosted by the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services will be held on October 18-21, 2021, in Austin, Texas. This conference brings together over 500

attendees eager to learn from top professionals from all over the world. The conference attracts bankers, lawyers, social workers, guardianship specialists, case workers, nurses, doctors, law enforcement, insurance investigators, counselors, home health agencies, and Adult Protective Services staff.

At APS, the mantra is "Protecting the Unprotected." The mission is to protect older adults and persons with disabilities from abuse, neglect, and exploitation. The annual conference is a time dedicated to offering training, resources, and continuing education from top experts in the field. The conference seeks to bring innovative tools which equip attendees on how to best help a wide array of clients, as well as taking care of ourselves by recognizing signs of and preventing burn-out.

To learn more, visit the [2021 APS Conference website](#).

4th Annual Judicial Summit on Mental Health

The 4th Annual Judicial Summit on Mental Health will be held in-person and live-stream on October 14–15, 2021, in Georgetown, Texas. The summit is hosted by the Judicial Commission on Mental Health which was created by a joint order of the Supreme Court of Texas and the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals. The mission of the Judicial Commission on Mental Health is to engage and empower court systems through collaboration, education, and leadership, thereby improving the lives of individuals with mental health needs and persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Invited to the summit are different stakeholders interested in furthering the mission of the Judicial Commission of Mental Health. There are a variety of sessions offered during this two-day hybrid, in-person and virtual, event. Registration is now open, and a detailed agenda can be found on the conference website. Continuing legal education, continuing education units, and Texas Commission on Law Enforcement credits are anticipated for this event.

To learn more, visit the [Judicial Summit on Mental Health website](#).

2021 Partners in Prevention Conference

The 2021 Partners in Prevention (PIP) Conference hosted by the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) will be held November 2-4, 2021, in Austin, Texas. The PIP Conference is the largest annual gathering of prevention and early intervention professionals in Texas. The conference attracts parent educators, youth service providers, civic leaders, policy advocates, researchers, DFPS staff, Prevention and Early Intervention grantees, and others with a professional interest in child and family well-

being, youth development, and juvenile justice. Attendees benefit from a wide variety of presentations, including but not limited to lived experience from parents and youth, fatherhood engagement, ethics, diversity, equity and inclusion, program evaluation, home visiting, and positive youth development.

The theme this year is *Forging Forward Together: Nurturing Communities and Families*. The conference seeks to recognize the challenges of the past year and the power of coming together, carving out paths towards a future that supports prevention and early intervention professionals, and the partnership and support with their communities.

To learn more, visit the [Partners in Prevention \(PIP\) Conference website](#).