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CRCG Events Calendar

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

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

April 28 – CRCG Webinar, 3-4 p.m. CDT

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

May 17 – CRCG Bridge Call, 1:30-3 p.m. CDT

June 8 – Monthly Leader Training, 10-11 a.m. CDT

June 21 – CRCG Bridge Call, 1:30-3 p.m. CDT

State CRCG Office Updates

2021 CRCG Recognition Awards

The State CRCG Office would like to congratulate and thank all the remarkable nominees and awardees of the 2021 CRCG Recognition Awards. A virtual awards ceremony was held in February to recognize the awardees for their exceptional dedication to improving the lives of individuals and families in their communities. The ceremony was well attended by CRCG leaders, community members, and agency partners. The ceremony featured remarks by Sara Underwood, CRCG State Coordinator, awards announcements, and a special congratulatory group video from State CRCG Workgroup members and CRCG representatives.

The following recipients were recognized at the ceremony:

2021 Outstanding CRCG

Hidalgo County CRCG

2021 Shining Star Award Recipients

Alice Alvarez

Program Manager of Initiatives for the Kronkosky Charitable Foundation and Member of the Bexar County CRCG

Susan Badger

Clinical Supervisor for the Montgomery County Juvenile Probation Department and Chair of the Montgomery County CRCG

Judy Blake

Co-Coordinator of the Harris County CRCG

Sam Gonzalez

Education Consultant-Transition at the Education Service Center-Region 20 and Member of the Bexar County CRCG

Julia Harris

Lead of the Crisis Intervention and Prevention Team at Hurst Eules Bedford ISD and Co-Chair of the Tarrant County CRCG

To view the recording of the event, visit the [GoToWebinar](#) webpage.

CRCG Site Visits

State CRCG Office Welcomes New CRCG Leaders

The State CRCG Office conducted virtual meetings with several new CRCG leaders in January and February. The meetings gave our office the opportunity to welcome the CRCG leaders to their new roles, share important CRCG resources with them, and provide technical assistance and support. Please join us in welcoming these new leaders:

- Gwen Beavers, Co-Chair of the Bexar County CRCG
- Kyndall Trahan, Chair of the Orange County CRCG
- Andrea Vela, Chair of the Nueces County CRCG

We look forward to continuing to build our relationship with these new leaders and hearing about all of the great work they accomplish in their communities.

State CRCG Office Conducts Virtual Site Visits with CRCG Leaders

Bosque County CRCG

Shavon Moore, with the City of Waco Community Services Department, has volunteered to help co-lead the CRCG after Leah Gorham left the chair position in December. Shavon has led the meetings thus far in 2022 and is working to identify new members from the community and more volunteers

to help lead the CRCG. The State CRCG Office joined the December and January meetings to assist with the transition and provide support to the group.

Garza County CRCG

In January, the State CRCG Office met with the following individuals to discuss the need and process to establish a CRCG in Garza County: Rebecca Williams, Chair of the Crosby, Dickens, and King counties CRCG; Colleen Rud, Chair of the Archer, Baylor, Haskell, Kent, Knox, Stonewall, and Throckmorton counties CRCG; and Judge Lee Norman of Garza County. Rebecca and Colleen offered to provide mentorship and support to Judge Norman as he leads the effort to get the CRCG off the ground. We are excited to see the great collaboration that is happening with these individuals in neighboring counties!

Falls County CRCG

The State CRCG Office met with Hilda Contreras, Chair of the Freestone and Limestone counties CRCG, and Tonya Tucker, Chair of the Falls County CRCG, in February to support efforts to reestablish the Falls County CRCG. The CRCG has recently found a stable group of members that are interested in actively participating in the CRCG meetings and staffing cases. The State CRCG Office had the opportunity to go over several resources and best practices to aid the group in reestablishing the CRCG.

State CRCG Office Available for Virtual Technical Assistance

The State CRCG Office is available for virtual training and technical assistance, including helping navigate virtual platforms and attending practice meetings. Please email the State CRCG Office at CRCG@hhsc.state.tx.us or call 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 Bylaws Worksheet and Template](#)

[State Supported Living Center One-Pager](#)

Webinar Recordings

The State CRCG Office webinars bring valuable resources and information to CRCG partners and members.

[2021 CRCG Recognition Awards Ceremony](#)

[Non-Educational Community-Based Support Services Grant](#)

Visit the [CRCG Training and Technical Assistance webpage](#) to view other 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 would like to share, please contact the State CRCG Office.

CRCG@hhsc.state.tx.us

512-206-5255

Spotlight on CRCGs

Neighboring CRCG Leaders Provide Support to Each Other

The State CRCG Office would like to recognize the great collaborative work that is being done among neighboring CRCG leaders to support each other in their efforts to lead CRCGs. Many of the CRCG leaders have been able to form connections through the monthly CRCG bridge calls and regional cohort meetings where they are able to network with other leaders in their region. Additionally, the State CRCG Office helps to facilitate individual connections with neighboring CRCG leaders as requested. During the last quarter, neighboring CRCG leaders met to share resources in their local areas, discuss ways that they have overcome barriers to services, collaborate to form new CRCGs or reestablish CRCGs, and share best practices surrounding the CRCG process. Some CRCG leaders were able to attend neighboring CRCG meetings to see how they operate to improve their own processes.

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

- April 19, 2022, 1:30–3 p.m. CDT / 12:30–2 p.m. MDT
- May 17, 2022, 1:30–3 p.m. CDT / 12:30–2 p.m. MDT
- June 21, 2022, 1:30–3 p.m. CDT / 12:30–2 p.m. MDT

Monthly Leader Training

The State CRCG Office hosts a monthly leader training for both new and existing leaders to provide tailored support to CRCGs. Each monthly training covers different sections of the training toolkit, highlights the support offered by the State CRCG Office, and allows time for topic discussions and questions.

All CRCG leaders are welcome and encouraged to join each month. The training occurs every second Wednesday of the month from 10–11 a.m. CDT. 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@hsc.state.tx.us.

- April 13, 2022, 10-11 a.m. CDT / 9-10 a.m. MDT
- May 11, 2022, 10-11 a.m. CDT / 9-10 a.m. MDT
- June 8, 2022, 10-11 a.m. CDT / 9-10 a.m. MDT

Post Adoption Services CRCG Webinar

April 28, 2022, 3–4 p.m. CDT

This webinar will provide an overview of what post adoption services are and what services are available, who is eligible, and how to access services as well as a more in-depth look at the work being done every day with children and families. To better understand the unique needs of post adoption families and the referral process for services, please join Cindra Rains, Licensed Master Social Worker (LMSW), Post Adoption Services Program Director with the Centers' for Children and Families; Shannon Bouse, LMSW, Director of Adoption Services with CK Family Services; Donna Waller, LMSW, Post Adoption/Post Permanency Supervisor with Arms Wide Adoption Services; and Sarah Sullivan, Child Protective Services Adoption Program Specialist with the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services.

To register, visit the [CRCG Webinar: Post Adoption Services GoToWebinar Registration](#) webpage.

Recordings for past webinars are available online on the [CRCG Training and Technical Assistance webpage](#).

CRCG Partner Agency Updates

Texas Health and Human Services Commission

Children's Mental Health

Texas was awarded funds through the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Pandemic Emergency Assistance Fund that was authorized through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (H.R. 1319) enacted on March 11, 2021. TANF is providing the funds through Title IV-A of the Social Security Act for states, tribes, and territories to provide non-recurring short-term expenses and benefits to families that have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Funds are available through September 30, 2022. Funds can be used for pandemic-related expenses that occurred beginning April 1, 2021.

Funds will be used for activities that allow eligible households with dependent children to obtain or maintain housing, and include rent and utility assistance, deposits, move-in costs, and other time-limited expenses to help individuals maintain current housing or move quickly into housing.

Local mental and behavioral health authorities and local intellectual and developmental disability authorities will also be able to use this grant for home modifications to make housing accessible for needy families. The lack of accessible housing is a major barrier for families of children with serious emotional disturbance and intellectual and developmental disabilities. Funding home modifications will help stabilize and create safer housing options without uprooting families.

When a family member tests positive for COVID-19, quarantine is required to protect the other members of the family; however, in many situations that is not feasible due to limited space or facilities (e.g., the household has one bathroom). Funds to help a family member with a short-term stay at a hotel can reduce the chances of spreading COVID-19 throughout a family and eliminate the health risk that can result from being in the same house.

Texas Community Partner Program

The Texas Community Partner Program (CPP) provides support to community organizations statewide that partner with Texas Health and Human Services to help Texans apply for and manage their food, cash, and health care assistance online.

Texans can receive help applying for or managing their state benefits from familiar local organizations they know and trust. Hundreds of community partners make up the statewide network that grows each day. Texans can find community partners in their local area by using the search feature located at the top of the Texas CPP website.

To learn more and find community partners near you, visit the [Texas CPP](#) website.

Texas 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.

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 the Texas Department of State Health Services 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, April 6, 2022, 10–11:30 a.m. CDT

[Transition to Adulthood Learning Collaborative](#)

Wednesday, May 4, 2022, 12–1:30 p.m. CDT

Jeff Miller, with Disability Rights Texas, will be the featured speaker and will present on legal changes at age 18 as well as supported decision-making and other alternatives to guardianship.

Meeting dates are subject to change.

Program resources on transitioning to adult health care, a medical home, and more are free and can be ordered on the [CSHCN Resource Order Form](#) webpage.

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

Early Childhood Texas Website

The new [Early Childhood Texas](#) website is a streamlined resource for Texas parents to find information about early childhood services available through the Texas Workforce Commission, Texas Education Agency, Texas Department of State Health Services, Texas Health and Human Services Commission, and Texas Department of Family and Protective Services.

The new website serves as a one-stop shop to connect Texas parents with access to a variety of free or low-cost services and resources that are available through different state agencies and programs.

Other News and Events

Trauma-Informed Practice Webinar Series

The Texas Health and Human Services Commission, Office of Mental Health Coordination, is hosting Trauma-Informed Practice: From Information to Application as part of its Trauma-Informed Practice webinar series. The webinar will be offered on Wednesdays from 2-3:30 p.m. CDT every other month between April and December 2022. Participants will take a deeper dive into the six principles of trauma-informed care and learn how to apply them in the workplace.

To register, visit the [Trauma-Informed Practice Webinar Series GoToWebinar Registration](#) webpage.

2022 Texas School Safety Conference

The 2022 Texas School Safety Conference, hosted by Texas State University's Texas School Safety Center, will be held on June 19-23, 2022 in San Antonio, Texas. The theme of this year's conference is "Keeping School Safety a Priority: A Collaborative Approach." The conference will focus on building school safety and preparedness into your daily routines and collaborating with community partners to tap into shared resources and planning. Prepare to learn from experts, network with your peers, and return to your districts and communities with strategies you can implement to engage students, staff, and community partners in creating safe and healthy environments.

To learn more, visit the [Texas School Safety Conference](#) webpage.

10th Annual Texas Primary Care Consortium Summit

On September 8-9, 2022, join the Texas Primary Care Consortium (TPCC) in Austin, Texas for the 10th Annual TPCC Summit. The theme of this year's summit is "A Decade of Powering Primary Care Transformation." The summit will honor the past 10 years of convening health champions as well as continue in the shared pursuit of improving the health of Texans through accessible, equitable, and coordinated person-centered primary care.

To address the prioritization of primary care in our health care system, the summit is a space for dialogue and collective learning among professionals from diverse backgrounds across the public health and health care spectrum. Attendees leave equipped with a more comprehensive understanding of today's health care challenges, best practices, lessons learned, and available resources in order to improve the health of Texans.

To learn more, visit the [TPCC Summit](#) webpage.

2022 Partners in Prevention Conference

The 2022 Partners in Prevention (PIP) Conference, hosted by the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, will be held on September 13-15, 2022 in Corpus Christi, 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, Texas Department of Family and Protective Services 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.

To learn more, visit the [PIP Conference](#) webpage.

5th Annual Judicial Summit on Mental Health

The 5th Annual Judicial Summit on Mental Health, hosted by the Texas Judicial Commission on Mental Health (JCMH), will be held on November 2-4, 2022 in Grapevine, Texas and presented both live and virtually. The summit will address topics across the sequential intercept model, and the second day of the summit will be divided into two tracks: Adult and Juvenile.

To learn more, visit the [2022 JCMH Summit](#) webpage.