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CRCG Events Calendar

October 6 – Community Partner Program Webinar, 1-2 p.m. CDT

October 12 – Monthly Leader Training, 10-11 a.m. CDT

October 18 – CRCG Bridge Call, 1:30-3 p.m. CDT

November 9 – Monthly Leader Training, 10-11 a.m. CST

November 15 – CRCG Bridge Call, 1:30-3 p.m. CST

Dec. 14 – Monthly Leader Training, 10-11 a.m. CST

State CRCG Office Updates

New CRCG State Coordinator Joins State CRCG Office Team

Julie Abreu joined the State CRCG Office team in August as the CRCG State Coordinator. Prior to her new position, she worked with the Department of Family and Protective Services-Child Protective Services as Division Administrator for Behavioral Health Services. In this role, she created and developed a division that provides policy and programmatic oversight in the areas of mental health, substance use, trauma informed care, and the Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) assessment.

Additionally, Julie has served as Program Manager for the Youth Empowerment Services Waiver/Level of Care 4 unit with the local mental health authority in Travis County, providing intensive community-based services for children and families with complex needs.

She has also worked in community and nonprofit organizations for over 20 years, providing direct services to adults with intellectual or developmental disabilities, survivors of domestic violence and/or trafficking, and supporting children and families, newly arrived to the U.S., with an emphasis on bringing awareness to providing

culturally and linguistically appropriate services to families.

Julie is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and holds a master's degree in Social Work, with a concentration in Administration and Supervision Practice, from Texas State University and a bachelor's degree in Social Work from Southwest Texas State University.

Julie is excited to begin her new role and get to know all of the CRCG leaders and state agency partners.

Nominations Open for the 2022 CRCG Recognition Awards

The State CRCG Office is excited to announce the 2022 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 3 through November 11, 2022. Please email the State CRCG Office at CRCG@hsc.state.tx.us to request a nomination form.

Legislative Updates

2020-2021 CRCG Legislative Report

The State CRCG Office is currently writing the 2020-2021 biennial legislative report. The report utilizes data gathered from local CRCGs about the number of persons served through CRCGs, information on outcomes of the services provided, a description of barriers identified on the state's ability to provide effective services to persons needing multi-agency services, and additional information relevant to improving the delivery of services. Once the report is

completed later this year, it will be posted to the [CRCG website](#) and shared with each partner agency, the Governor, and the Texas Legislature.

To read previous CRCG legislative reports, please visit the [Reports and Community Impact](#) webpage.

State CRCG Office Gears Up for the 88th Texas Legislative Session

The State CRCG Office is gearing up for the 88th Texas Legislative session, which begins in January. The office is involved in responding to legislative requests, which include tracking incoming bills and completing bill analyses to determine how they may impact HHSC and local CRCGs. Learn about new bills that may pertain to CRCGs and track them through the [Texas Legislature Online](#) website.

CRCG Site Visits

State CRCG Office Welcomes New CRCG Leaders

The State CRCG Office would like to introduce the new CRCG leaders who recently started their roles:

- Keely Kent, Chair, Cochran and Hockley Counties CRCG
- Nora Ramos, Co-Chair, Dawson County CRCG
- Tim Charron, Chair, Robertson County CRCG
- Kimberlee Parmer, Co-Chair, Washington County CRCG
- Randy Wells, Co-Chair, Washington County CRCG
- Mindy Webb, Co-Chair, Bosque County CRCG
- Shanna Robins, Co-Chair, Bosque County CRCG

The State CRCG Office met with several of the new leaders and welcomed them to their new roles providing information about CRCG resources and support available. We are excited to have these new leaders on board. The State CRCG Office appreciates the time commitment, skills, and energy they bring to coordinate and support their local groups with the ultimate goal of supporting individuals with complex needs.

Bosque County CRCG

Community partners in Bosque County met in August to reestablish the CRCG. Staff from the State CRCG Office joined the meeting to provide information about the CRCG process, and to help facilitate a conversation about the needs of the community to inform how the Bosque County CRCG will operate. The group discussed the importance of having a leadership team

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. Popular links include:

[CRCG Training Toolkit](#)

[New Member Welcome Email Template](#)

[Non-Educational Funds One Pager](#)

Webinar Recordings

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

[National Alliance on Mental Illness \(NAMI\) Texas](#)

[Adult Mental Health and Crisis Services](#)

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@hsc.state.tx.us

(512) 206-5255

to organize and manage the CRCG. Two members volunteered to take on the co-chair roles, as follows: Mindy Webb, Licensed Professional Counselor, Goodall-Witcher Healthcare; and Shanna Robins, Master of Social Work, Lead Regional Case Manager, Heart of Texas Behavioral Health Network Klara's Center for Families.

Over the next few months, the CRCG will continue to work on building its membership, formalizing the group's processes, and eventually taking referrals for staffing. The State CRCG Office would like to give a special thanks to Mindy and Shanna for spearheading the effort to get the CRCG back off the ground and for dedicating their valuable time to lead the group.

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@hsc.state.tx.us or call 512-206-5255 for assistance.

Spotlight on CRCGs

Zavala, Dimmit, and Maverick Counties CRCG

The State CRCG Office recently asked local leaders to share success stories and highlight how their CRCG has impacted their work, communities, and the people they serve. Rosa C. Guzman, Chair of the Zavala, Dimmit, and Maverick Counties CRCG, shared the following success story:

"As a united proficient CRCG group, we have examined our communities' inequalities and initiated different projects to facilitate additional

non-profit amenities for youth, and economically disadvantage families, especially those experiencing behavioral, medical, and mental health issues. The following members promote collaboration within our rural communities: Zavala, Dimmit, and Maverick County Wellness CRCG members: Crystal City Independent School District; South Texas Rural Health Services; Zavala, Dimmit, and Maverick County Juvenile Probation; Community Council of South Central Texas; Home of Living Faith; Family Services; Templo Emanuel; Methodist Health Wesley Nurses; Vida y Salud Health Systems, Inc.; Belong; Texas Child Protective Services; Camino Real Community Services of Zavala and Dimmit; and RC Meier Specialty Service.”

The State CRCG Office would like to thank the Zavala, Dimmit, and Maverick Counties CRCG for sharing information about the collaborative and impactful work they are doing.

The State CRCG Office acknowledges efforts and successes of CRCGs and how they impact people and communities. If you are a part of a CRCG or your life has been impacted by a CRCG and you would like to share your story for an upcoming newsletter, 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 with instructions for joining via Microsoft Teams. 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.

- October 18, 2022, 1:30–3 p.m. CDT / 12:30–2 p.m. MDT
- November 15, 2022, 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. 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@hhsc.state.tx.us.

- October 12, 2022, 10-11 a.m. CDT / 9-10 a.m. MDT
- November 9, 2022, 10-11 a.m. CST / 9-10 a.m. MST
- December 14, 2022, 10-11 a.m. CST / 9-10 a.m. MST

CRCG Webinar: Community Partner Program

October 6, 2022, 1–2 p.m. CDT

The Community Partner Program (CPP) builds bridges between Texas Health and Human Services (HHSC) and communities statewide to provide Texans access to food, cash, and health care. The CPP can help Texans apply for or manage benefits online from trusted local organizations. Whether you are a community partner looking for resources, an organization interested in learning more about the CPP, or a Texan looking for assistance online, CPP can help.

Apply for these state benefit programs at [YourTexasBenefits.com](https://www.yourtexasbenefits.com):

- Food assistance through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Health care assistance through Medicaid, Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and Healthy Texas Women (HTW)
- Cash assistance through Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)

To register, visit the [CRCG Webinar: Community Partner Program 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

Veterans Mental Health Coordination and Program Department

HHSC's Veterans Mental Health Coordination and Programs unit consists of three components:

Mental Health Program for Veterans

HHSC and the [Texas Veterans Commission](#) jointly administer the Mental Health Program for Veterans. This program provides peer counseling services to service members, veterans, and their families through contracts with local mental health authorities and local behavioral health authorities.

Texas Veterans + Family Alliance Grant

The Texas Veterans + Family Alliance Grant Program was created to improve the quality of life of veterans and their families. The aim of the program is to expand the availability of, increase access to, and enhance delivery of mental health services and treatments through community programs.

Suicide Prevention

The Veteran Suicide Prevention Coordinator provides technical assistance and training on suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention to internal and external program partners.

For more information, email VMH_Coordination_Programs@hhs.texas.gov.

Mental Health First Aid Trainings

Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) training introduces participants to signs and symptoms of mental health and substance use concerns, builds understanding of their impact, and gives an overview of common treatments and resources.

Adult, youth, and teen MHFA trainings are available to community members across the state through the local mental health and behavioral health authorities. More information on how to enroll in a course can be found at [Mental Health First Aid | Texas Health and Human Services](#).

Texas System of Care Community Roster Survey

Texas System of Care (SOC) is requesting help in updating the Texas SOC community roster by completing a brief survey. The roster contains contact information for all key administrators, practitioners, family and peer support providers, and others involved in SOC communities across the state. Your SOC can be at any stage of implementation – beginners and experts alike are encouraged to participate. This roster will serve as an invitation list for quarterly SOC community calls, training events, and other special activities. Feel free to forward this survey to any others who might want to participate.

To complete the survey, visit the [Texas SOC Community Roster Survey](#) webpage.

For more information about the SOC Community, please contact Tammy Holland at tammy.holland@austin.utexas.edu or (512) 785-1162.

Positive Behavior Management and Support Workshops

HHSC, in conjunction with the University of North Texas, is offering several upcoming Positive Behavior Management and Support (PBMS) and Advanced PBMS workshops. These workshops are being offered at no cost for attendees on the following dates and times:

- October 12-13, 2022 (via Zoom/Advanced PBMS)
- October 26-27, 2022 (Tyler Junior College – West Campus/PBMS)
- November 9-10, 2022 (via Zoom/PBMS)
- November 30-December 1, 2022 (Austin/Advanced PBMS)

The workshops are available to the public, including family members, caregivers, Adult Protective Services staff, case managers, and providers (educational, foster care, geriatric, and long-term services and supports for people with mental illness or intellectual and developmental disabilities, as well as aging populations). For an overview of the workshops, [read the Save-the-Date Flyer \(PDF\)](#).

For registration and training resources, [visit the Training Initiatives webpage](#).

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 (DSHS).

The program partners with community-based organizations 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 training 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 webinars are scheduled on the following dates:

[Medical Home Learning Collaborative](#)

Thursday, October 13, 2022, 10–11:30 a.m. CDT

Meeting topic and featured presenter will be announced soon.

[Transition to Adulthood Learning Collaborative](#)

Wednesday, November 2, 2022, Noon–1:30 p.m. CDT

Cristen Reat with the Bridging Apps program at Easter Seals of Greater Houston will be presenting on apps for youth transitioning to adulthood that promote greater independence.

Learning collaborative meeting dates are subject to change.

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

To be added to the distribution lists for the learning collaboratives and for more information on the CSHCN program, please email Ivy Goldstein, State CSHCN Health Coordinator, at Ivy.Goldstein@dshs.texas.gov.

Other News and Events

Trauma-Informed Practice Webinar Series

HHSC's Office of Mental Health Coordination is hosting "Trauma-Informed Practice: From Information to Application" as part of its Trauma-Informed Practice webinar series. The final two webinars will be offered on the following dates:

- Wednesday, October 19, 2022, from 2-3:30 p.m. CDT
- Wednesday, December 21, 2022, from 2-3:30 p.m. CST

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 Engage & Excel Conference

The 2022 Engage & Excel Conference, hosted by the Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute, will be held on October 13 and 14, 2022, in Plano, Texas and presented both live and virtually. The conference aims to help attendees stay ahead of the curve on mental health policy and implementation so everyone can receive the best care when and where it's needed.

To learn more, visit the [Engage & Excel](#) website.

23rd Annual Chronic Illness and Disability Conference: Transition from Pediatric to Adult-Based Care

The 23rd Annual Chronic Illness & Disability Conference: Transition from Pediatric to Adult-based Care, hosted by the Baylor College of Medicine, will be held October 27 and 28, 2022, virtually. The purpose of the event is to share current research and practices to support transition-age youth, young adults, families, health care clinicians, and other professionals plan for a successful transition to adult health care.

Some scholarship funding for transition-age youth, young adults, and parents/caregivers to attend will be available through Texas Parent to Parent. Please contact Texas Parent to Parent directly at (866) 896 -6001 or info@txp2p.org for scholarship information.

To learn more, visit the [Baylor College of Medicine's 23rd Annual Chronic Illness and Disability 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 include opportunities to connect with colleagues, obtain new resources, and engage in learning sessions designed to be inspiring yet practical. Participants will receive tools to help navigate the complex mental health laws. Conference registration is free.

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

46th Annual Convention of the American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Texas Chapter

The 46th Annual Convention of the American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Texas Chapter, will be held November 15-18, 2022, in Galveston, Texas. This convention is geared towards professionals, direct support staff, self-advocates, and family members with an interest in

all the issues facing people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The convention's title "Waves of Changes" reflects the flexibility and resilience of all of the service providers and service recipients who have encountered obstacles, challenges, and changes during the past couple of years. In addition to the individual sessions, on the final day participants have the opportunity to hear from leaders of statewide organizations who share in the mission of service provision.

To learn more, visit the [46th Annual Convention](#) webpage.

Advancing Behavioral Health Collaboration Summit

Save the date for the 2022 Advancing Behavioral Health Collaboration (ABC) Summit that will be held November 29 through December 1, 2022, via Zoom. The summit will be hosted by the Texas Education Agency and its planning partners. The event aims to strengthen school behavioral health partnerships and provides an opportunity to bring together Educational Service Centers, district and campus leaders, professional school counselors and educators, school mental health and health professionals, and community partners.

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