

H 350.6

B 764

~~4.1~~

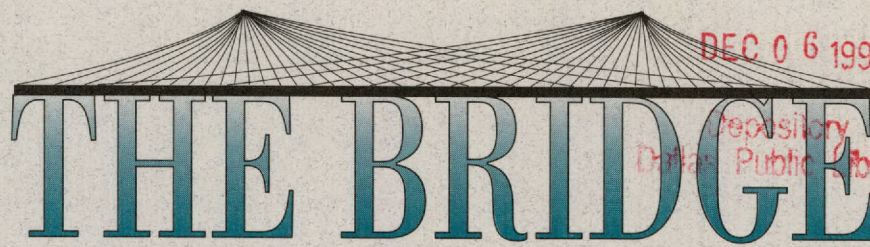
1:4



CRCG

Government Publications
Texas State Documents

DEC 06 1994 pe



Repository
Dallas Public Library

Newsletter of the COMMUNITY RESOURCE COORDINATION GROUPS *of Texas*
"Bridging the Service Gap for the Youth of Texas"

BEXAR COUNTY CRCG PULLING TOGETHER FOR KIDS

by Clare Tomez, Education Service Center, Region XX,
Bexar County CRCG Chairperson

J. P. is a seven year old who lives with his great grandmother and three siblings. Sometimes, as many as seventeen people share their home. His parents are heroin addicts and are presently incarcerated. J.P. has lost weight over the last year. He was unable to chew food due to a severe infection in his mouth, causing him chronic pain and the loss of teeth.



J. P. was referred to the Bexar County CRCG due to serious health and dental problems. The following is an excellent example of how a CRCG responded to a little boy who was caught in a family system which did not have the ability to access services. The *Center for Health Care Services* provided a bilingual case manager who made a few home visits assisting the great grandmother in completing an AFDC application. J.P. was seen by a physician. He obtained emergency dental services from the Mirasol Clinic with assistance from the Texas Department of Health. During a follow-up visit to the clinic, his great grandmother brought in several other children for checkups! The Texas Juvenile Probation Department had two cases of dietary supplement milkshakes

delivered to his home as well as a Thanksgiving meal! The family was also put on a list to receive a Christmas meal and gifts!

The school counselor and case worker from Project COPE reported a dramatic change in appearance, attitude, and alertness once J.P. received services. Another positive outcome that was reported was that his great grandmother was not as apprehensive about talking to "agency-type" people about family needs. Hats off to the members of the Bexar County CRCG who are pulling together for kids! The letter that follows is from J.P. to the Bexar County CRCG:

I JOSEPH P. give Thanks
to Mr Cruz and the program
for helping me and me and my
family to get me to the dentist.
I AM happy because my
teeth will not hurt me anymore
and I will have all my teeth

ho

Thank you Mr Cruz
for all the things you
did for my family.

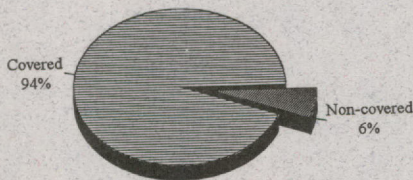
Thank you
Joseph
P.

CRCGs ~ We've Got You Covered

by Sherri Hammack, State CRCG Project Director

As this first year of the State Office of CRCG winds down, I think back to the summer of '93, prior to the creation of this office. At that time, there were 82 CRCGs available to 109 Texas counties. Momentum was already picking up for communities everywhere to initiate or strengthen their local CRCGs.

This past year has certainly brought an increased level of awareness about CRCGs to local communities as well as to state level decision-makers. CRCG brochures, presentations, newsletters, and most of all, success stories have promoted the use of this model of interagency staffing teams. As a result, there are currently 116 local CRCGs covering 162 counties across Texas. Children and youth who require interagency coordination have truly benefited from public and private service providers coming together to bridge service gaps and remove barriers to service delivery. Presently CRCGs are available to 94% of the State's juvenile population and 94% of the school age population figures. CRCGs are truly collaborating for kids! **Keep up the great work!**



Percent of Public School and Juvenile Population covered by CRCGs

INVOLVING LOCAL DECISION MAKERS IN YOUR CRCG

by Glen Killian, Day Treatment Coordinator, Tri-County MHMR, Montgomery County CRCG Chairperson



A recent meeting of the Montgomery County CRCG found a welcome visitor, Texas State Representative Kevin Brady. Representative Brady represents the Montgomery county area in Austin, and attended at the invitation of the local Child Protective Services (CPS) supervisor who is an active CRCG member.

Representative Brady briefed the group on the current legislation being considered by a Texas House legislative committee that could affect families and the agencies that serve families. The CRCG was able to share their concerns about the local service gaps and funding issues with Representative Brady, as well as discuss the purpose of the CRCG in the local community. Overall, it was an enlightening exchange of ideas and information for both sides!!

The Montgomery County CRCG is considering inviting other local and state decision-makers to be involved in the future "round table" discussions. In doing so, we anticipate that coordination of services to children and their families will improve and strengthen!

Mobilizing Community Services for Children with Severe Disabilities

by Colleen Reynolds, a State CRCG Committee Member, Texas Health & Human Services Commission

Staff from various health and human service state agencies have been collaborating to identify ways to improve the delivery of services to children with severe disabilities. Various problems that families experience with the current system were highlighted during the hearings the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services in January. Subsequently, the agencies were asked to improve services to these individuals, to provide better information about these services, and to streamline and coordinate service delivery.

Planning efforts are underway to address the following key components for improved service delivery:

- a single point of contact for information.
- a single point of entry and coordination of designated regional sites.
- initiation of family partner services to assist families in accessing services and developing strategies to obtain necessary supports; and
- CRCG staffings for children whose families may be considering placement in nursing facilities.

Children with severe disabilities often have extraordinarily complex needs for

services and support, and many CRCGs have collaborated to address these needs. Indeed, CRCGs are an excellent mechanism to provide this needed support and assistance to families to explore all options in developing a coordinated service plan. On behalf of the Children with Severe Disabilities Workgroup, we urge each CRCG to collaborate concerning this special population of children we serve.

Please feel free to contact the State Office of CRCG for any needed technical assistance. ❖



Letter to the Editor:

Dear Sherri;

From someone in juvenile justice, I must admit that when the CRCG concept first came into existence, I was very apprehensive. I have had the opportunity to sit in on many meetings where nothing **ever** really seemed to get accomplished.

Jane Wetzel hit the nail right on the head when she stated in her opening news letter: "we must come together, learn to trust each other, and develop programs."

We, out in West Texas, specifically in Plainview, have really come together and solidified as a group this past year. As a result, the interagency collaboration has been **INCREDIBLE!**

One of the most productive things we did, was plan a day and a half mini retreat for all agency heads to attend. The agenda at this first meeting was light, with primary focus and purpose being to spend time getting to know each other and thus, learning to trust each other. The group bonded over night, as a result of a camp fire, package of hot dogs, and a bag of marshmallows!

At a recent meeting with many of my colleagues across the state, I was puzzled to learn that there were some groups that were not having as much success with their CRCGs or Community Management Teams. The hardest thing to "break down" is the walls of agency territory that each of us likes to hold on to. Once this is accomplished however, the sky is the limit to what can be achieved together! We have a wonderful and innovative director, Dick Hatfield, who has not only brought our region together, but helped to bridge the gaps between agencies.

Let me encourage everyone to consider what appears to have worked for us; get off and plan a get-together for the exchange of ideas and simply to "get to know each other." By doing so, you might find that you too experience the same kind of success.

Sincerely,

David Allenson, Chief
Hale County Juvenile Probation ❖



CRCGs Can Help Homeless Families

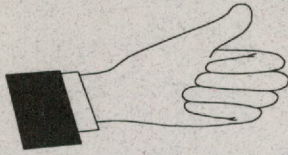
Richard is twelve years old. He lives with his parents and sister. His father works hard. Both of his parents are dedicated to the family and want a better life for their children. Sound like the proverbial "Leave it to Beaver" family? They're not: Richard's family is homeless.

Most homeless families are one-parent families, headed by women with 2-3 children. The children are often under five years of age and spend their developmental years without the security of a stable home. The effect on the children is grave. The children tend to do poorly in school, have more medical difficulties, exhibit more developmental and cognitive delays, and have a higher incidence of emotional and behavioral problems.

The Texas Education Agency (TEA) estimates that well over 100,000 children in Texas live in shelters or motels, or double up with family and friends. There is a new generation of children growing up who have never known what it means to have a home. What does their future hold? What are our choices? We can start saving money to build new jails, or we can start saving the children to build new futures.

For more information on how your CRCG can help homeless children, please call Patrick Haney at TxMHMR (512) 206-4695 or Barbara Ward at TEA (512) 463-9695. ❖

★★ YOU'RE THE BEST! ★★




Thanks so much! The State Office of CRCG would like to thank everyone who helped to make the CRCG Regional Conference circuit a great success! The feedback indicates that your support, networking, and active participation contributed greatly to making each of the four conferences an overwhelming **success!** We will be sending all CRCG Chairpersons a comprehensive report of the conference workgroups to share with their individual CRCG members.

Planning is already underway for a **Statewide Conference** next year in the spring or early summer. We look forward to your input and participation.

Let us hear from You

Send Us - Newsletter Articles that address positive practices and success stories of local CRCGs. Articles may demonstrate how your group overcame some barrier, such as educating the community about CRCGs, increasing member's attendance to CRCGs, improving the quality of your CRCG meetings, pooling resources within your CRCG, sharing the load of logistically running a CRCG, etc. We're not looking for a dissertation here, we just want to share a short tidbit of good, positive information from your CRCG. Chances are what you have done may be useful to another community! Please contact Sherri Hammack or Monique Ward at the State Office of CRCG, at (512) 502-3270.



CRCGs is a collaborative process serving the Youth of Texas.

In Partnership with:

| | |
|--|---|
| Texas Commission for the Blind | Early Childhood Intervention |
| Texas Department of Mental Health & Mental Retardation | Texas Department of Health |
| Texas Education Agency | Texas Department of Protective & Regulatory Service |
| Texas Rehabilitation Commission | Texas Juvenile Probation Commission |
| | Texas Youth Commission |
| | Private Child Serving Providers |

CRCG
COMMUNITY RESOURCE COORDINATION GROUPS of Texas

The Bridge is published by the State Office of CRCG
Texas Health and Human Services Commission
Richard C. Ladd, Commissioner
Send comments to P.O. Box 13247, Austin, Texas 78711
or call 512/502-3270 (voice or TDD)

Editor: Sherri Hammack Assistant Editor: Monique Ward

CRCG Logo by Randy Phinney, TRC & The Bridge Logo by Greg Patterson, TDH

Place
Stamp
Here