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CRCG

THE BRIDGE

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"Bridging the Service Gap for the Youth of Texas"

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CRCG Coordinators: Supporting A More Efficient CRCG

Many CRCGs, urban and rural alike, are exploring the idea of a CRCG Coordinator position to assist in a more efficient operation. The State CRCG Office recently conducted an informal survey of the current six coordinator positions. Questions were asked of the CRCG Coordinators, as well as the CRCG Chairpersons and other CRCG members. Below are the results of this inquiry.

Benefits for supporting CRCG Coordinator position(s) include the following:

- an effective link to keep agencies focused for the purpose of multi-agency service planning for children and youth.
- CRCG meetings are more organized, for example, members have the information needed (i.e., consent forms, assessments, background information) to quickly address the barriers to interagency service planning.
- increased follow up to service planning, resulting in more effective service delivery to children and youth referred to the CRCG.
- an increase in attendance of the family and necessary agency/group members who need to be represented for a particular staffing.

Responsibilities of CRCG Coordinators may include the following:

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EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER REGION XVII CELEBRATES UNIVERSAL COVERAGE

by Val Meixner, Associate School Psychologist and Terry Weathersby, Educational Specialist, and Maralyn Billings, Ph.D., Psychologist from Regional XVII Education Service Center

This year's final four in basketball consisted of the Rockets, Spurs, Pacers, and the Magic, but to Region XVII Education Service Center (ESC) CRCG participants, the FINAL FOUR was an entirely different ballgame! Our FINAL FOUR involved the counties of Crosby, Lynn, Hockley, and Cochran. Future players were welcomed June 20, 1995 by Sherri Hammack, State CRCG Project Director. Coach Sherri gave an inspirational message to the budding teams in attendance. Half-time show commentary was a rousing panel discussion provided by Dick Hatfield, Regional Youth Associates; Venida Collins, Muleshoe I.S.D.; Mona Kile, Lubbock Regional Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse; Dr. Maralyn Billings, Region XVII ESC; and Rebeca Wallace, Lubbock Regional MHMR. Following a morning of orientation and training, individual teams huddled to elect interim team captains and establish meeting sites, dates and times. Great things are expected from the new CRCGs!

Regional XVII ESC's commitment doesn't end with just providing orientation and training. Consultants serve in various roles on all 15 CRCGs throughout the region. With the full support and

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- serves as a single point of contact for CRCG referrals (obtains information and identify necessary staff.)
- coordinates and screens CRCG referrals (i.e., assuring the appropriateness of referrals to the CRCG; identifying and contacting the necessary persons who need to attend a particular meeting.)
- conducts pre-staffings/mini-staffings prior to full CRCG team consideration.
- completes CRCG related paperwork (referrals, staffing forms, meeting notification letters, releases of information, meeting minutes, etc.)
- schedules meeting time and place (i.e., emergency staffings, retreats/workshops for CRCG and Community Management Team (CMT.)
- serves as a neutral case manager or service coordinator, especially for particular children and families who do not clearly have a "lead" agency.
- coordinates resources as specified in an interagency service plan (i.e., coordinate wraparound service programs, providing in-home support, developing funding resources, etc.)
- serves as a link with CMT, CRCG, city, etc.
- serves as a neutral advocate for children and family.
- represents CRCG in court.
- develops compelling reports, such as annual surveys, outcome evaluation reports.
- provides community education about CRCGs.

So, if you find that you have an increase in the number of CRCG referrals or a need for better coordination and follow through of planning services, you might consider the possibility of a CRCG Coordinator position.

For more information about CRCG Coordinator positions, and strategies for considering these positions, contact the State CRCG Office at (512)502-3270.☒



HELPFUL HINTS

The Bailey/Parmer CRCG has used the new CRCG brochures; *Making a Difference One at a Time*, for educating their community. They have stamped the local CRCG contact person; name, address, and phone number, on the outside of the brochure. This provides necessary local contact information for the purpose of;

- referring a child or adolescent to their closest CRCG or
- obtaining more information about the CRCG operation.

Good idea Bailey/Parmer! Maybe other CRCGs will find this tool useful!☒

(Continued from Educational Service Center...)

encouragement of Mr. David Cobb, Associate Executive Director for Instructional Services, nine consultants share the re-

sponsibility of participating in regional CRCG meetings.

Consultants represent a wide variety of ESC components including psychological services, migrant/bilingual services, gifted/talented, drug free schools, transition/inclusion services and early childhood to name a few. Each consultant and the Associate Director of Special Education brings with them specialized knowledge in addition to representing the needs of school age children. Region XVII applauds the effort and involvement of all regional education service centers who invest time in providing collaborative services to the youth of Texas!☒

THE NUMBERS

ARE IN!

There is a CRCG staffing data report (long version - 16 pages front and back; and short version - 1 page front and back) that is available through the State Office of CRCG. This report analyzes statewide CRCG staffing data that was submitted during calendar year 1994. This report summarizes the demographics of the children and youth who received services by CRCGs. Also included is information about individual agency's level of participation. If you are interested in obtaining a copy of either version, contact Monique Ward at (512)502-3270.☒

"Your Kids" " My Kids" = Our Kids

by Ghasem Nahvipour, Tarrant County
MHMR, Tarrant County CRCG Chair

The philosophy of the Tarrant County CRCG is that kids staffed at the "Kid's Team" are not "your" kids or "my" kids, but they are all our kids.

It has been my privilege to serve as the Chairperson of the Tarrant County CRCG for the last two years, and I have seen a lot of changes and growth in our CRCG. We, as a community of service providers, have worked and grown together as a team. Everyday efforts are made to examine what can be done differently to improve the way families are served. What works in Tarrant County might not work in other communities because each community is unique.

What makes the Tarrant County CRCG successful? The key word is "willingness." Willingness to:

- Share ideas and funds.
- Try new ways of doing things.
- Put kids' needs first instead of the individual agency's needs.
- Take responsibility for helping the families as a team instead of individuals/agencies.

What makes the Tarrant County CRCG a unique model?

1. The Tarrant County CRCG has of two components. The

first is the "Parent" CRCG. Members of this group are upper level administrators and have the authority to delegate or remove agency barriers as needed. The second component is the "Kid's Team." The Kid's Team is composed of front line staff who have hands-on knowledge of the youth and their families who are staffed.

2. The Tarrant County Children's Mental Health Plan allocated funds to be used for kids and families determined to be in need of services other than in-home or outpatient treatment. Dispensation of these funds is approved through the staffing process and include therapeutic foster care, short-term residential treatment, expanded day treatment, emergency shelter, respite, etc.

3. The Parent Support Coordinator is playing an important role in our CRCG by coordinating and scheduling the individual staffings. This position also attends staffings in order to help the family feel more comfortable and less anxious before and during the staffing process.

4. The Aftercare Caseworker is also serving a critical role by attending each staffing and initiating the process for all children referred to Waco Center for Youth or other placement centers. This position also travels to placements once a month to update treatment plans and visit with the child. At the time of discharge, aftercare services are coordinated between Waco Center (or other placement), the CRCG, and MHMR.

Finally, I believe that every community is in need of a CRCG and every CRCG has the potential to be successful, if we remember to put the needs of kids and families first.

We, in Tarrant County would like to extend a hearty welcome and invitation to all who are committed to the collaborative work for kids to attend the CRCG Regional Conference in Fort Worth, October 9 and 10, 1995.✧



CRCG WISH LIST

At a recent joint meeting of the State CRCG Team and the State Management Team a new idea was presented that might be useful to local groups. There are occasions when local CRCGs, particularly in rural communities, need essential equipment such as computers, copiers, or other office equipment in order to adequately provide services for the children and families.

One such request was made from a local community in West Texas. They desperately needed a computer. Fortunately, a 386 computer was provided on loan by a state agency with surplus equipment. All such requests might not be so easily solved. But this is an example of the CRCG "can-do" attitude that has yielded success from very difficult situations.✧

The Wait Is Over !!!

Many of you have been anticipating the next CRCG conference. Well, wait no longer! Make plans now to attend one of the three regional conferences which will be sponsored by the State CRCG Team. Each regional conference will offer its own unique flavor. **ATTEND FREE OF CHARGE!** There will be no registration fees, so you only need to cover your own travel and personal expenses. Take advantage of these opportunities to be motivated, rejuvenated, and involved in the exchange of creative ideas. We invite you to attend one or all of the following:

October 9th & 10th

**Ft. Worth at The Green Oaks Inn & Conference Center
Featuring Keynote Speaker: Kim Peek- the real "Rainman"
call 1-800-772-2341 for hotel reservations
call (512) 502-3270 for registration materials**

February 1996

San Antonio at the Wyndham Hotel

April 1996

**Midland, Texas
(location to be determined)**



CRCG

**COMMUNITY
RESOURCE
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GROUPS of Texas**

CRCGs is a collaborative process serving the Youth of Texas.

In Partnership with families and:

Texas Commission for the Blind
Texas Department of Health
Texas Department of Mental
Health & Mental Retardation
Texas Education Agency
Texas Juvenile Probation Commission
Texas Youth Commission
Private Child Serving Providers
Texas Commission on Alcohol &
Drug Abuse
Texas Department of Human Services
Texas Department of Protective &
Regulatory Service
Texas Interagency Council on Early
Childhood Intervention
Texas Rehabilitation Commission

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