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CRCG Events Calendar

July 20 — CRCG Bridge Call,
1:30-3 p.m. CDT

July 27 – 29 – 2021 TxSOC
and CRCG Conference

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

September 21 — CRCG
Bridge Call, 1:30-3 p.m. CDT

State CRCG Office Updates

Registration Now Open for the 2021 Texas System of Care (TxSOC) and CRCG Conference

Registration is now open for the 2021 TxSOC and CRCG Conference, which will be held virtually July 27-29. The theme for this year's conference is "Finding the Spark: Inspiring Authentic Collaborations in our Communities." This interagency conference will bring together youth, family members, state leaders, child-serving providers, and community leaders to learn how to implement innovative strategies, to shift from coordination to collaboration, participate in networking opportunities, and share best practices in coordinating systems and services for young people with significant mental health and/or cross-agency needs. The conference is free and CEUs will be available.

Please register on the [2021 CRCG and TxSOC Conference website](#).

For questions or more information about the conference, email Kisha Ledlow at kisha.ledlow@hhs.texas.gov.

CRCG Website Redesign

The CRCG website has been redesigned and the changes to the website are now live. The redesigned website features an updated layout to improve navigation for all users. It features updated content throughout the website and new resources for CRCG

leaders. Some of the new resources include a CRCG Training Toolkit, combined CRCG Handbook, Ambassador Toolkit and Partner Recruiting Toolkit. To learn more about the website redesign, view the [CRCG Website Redesign Demonstration webinar recording](#) and visit the [CRCG website](#).

Legislative Updates

The 87th Legislature, Regular Session, 2021 was a busy session with many bills brought forth that impact HHSC and our partner agencies. However, there were no bills that passed that directly impact or make changes to the CRCG program. To learn more about the session and see which bills were signed into law, visit the [Texas Legislature Online website](#).

CRCG Site Visits

State CRCG Office Helps Support Coverage in Counties without CRCGs

As part of the three-year State CRCG Office strategic plan, the State CRCG Office is working toward the goal of establishing CRCG coverage in all counties in Texas to serve individuals of all ages with complex needs. The State CRCG Office has been reaching out to local and regional contacts, neighboring CRCGs and State CRCG Workgroup members to identify individuals who are interested in leading the effort to establish CRCGs in these counties. Since the beginning of 2021, new leaders have been identified for Clay, Kent, Coleman, McCulloch, Washington and Williamson counties.

There are nine counties that remain in need of coverage, including Lipscomb, Garza, Sutton, Edwards, Real, Kinney, Blanco, Harrison and Panola 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 contact the [State CRCG Office](#).

The State CRCG Office would like to thank the CRCG leaders and State CRCG Workgroup members who have assisted with working toward this goal.

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](#)

[CRCG Ambassador Toolkit](#)

[CRCG Handbook](#)

Webinar Recordings

The State CRCG Office webinars bring valuable resources and information to CRCG partners and members. Click the links below to view previous recordings.

[CRCG Website Redesign Demonstration](#)

[Strengthening Your CRCG with Family Representation](#)

[Traumatic Brain Injury](#)

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

Thank You to CRCG Leaders who Stepped Up to Cover New Counties

The State CRCG Office would like to thank all the new and established CRCG leaders who have volunteered their time to lead CRCGs in counties that did not previously have coverage. We appreciate your commitment to offering interagency coordination of services and supports for individuals and families with complex needs in your communities.

- Katie Snyder, CRCG Chair, and Michelle Wells, CRCG Co-Chair, Brown and Coleman Counties CRCG
- Paula Harley, CRCG Chair, Clay and Montague Counties CRCG
- Teri Trull, CRCG Chair, McCulloch County CRCG
- Jamie Woodall, CRCG Chair, Washington County CRCG
- Toniya Parker, CRCG Chair, Julie Calhoun-Bijou, CRCG Co-Chair, and Dawn Jennings, CRCG Co-Chair, Williamson County CRCG
- Colleen Rud, CRCG Chair, Archer, Baylor, Haskell, Kent, Knox, Stonewall and Throckmorton Counties CRCG

The State CRCG Office acknowledges efforts and successes of various CRCGs. To share success stories for upcoming newsletters, email 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. In June, the bridge call format was changed to include regional cohort breakouts. CRCG leaders will now have the opportunity to connect and build partnerships with other leaders in their region. This change was based on CRCG feedback and aims to increase collaboration and knowledge and resource sharing.

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 contact the [State CRCG Office](#).

- July 20, 2021, 1:30 p.m.–3:00 p.m. CDT / 12:30 p.m.–2:00 p.m. MDT
- August 17, 2021, 1:30 p.m.–3:00 p.m. CDT / 12:30 p.m.–2:00 p.m. MDT
- September 21, 2021, 1:30 p.m.–3:00 p.m. CDT / 12:30 p.m.–2:00 p.m. MDT

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](#).

2021 Texas System of Care (TxSOC) and CRCG Conference

Registration is now open for the 2021 Texas System of Care (TxSOC) and CRCG Conference! Please register on the [2021 CRCG and TxSOC Conference website](#). For additional information, see the [State CRCG Office Updates](#) section of this newsletter.

CRCG Partner Agency Updates

Health and Human Services Commission

Office of Mental Health Coordination

Mental Health First Aid

Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) is a skills-based training course that teaches participants how to identify, understand and respond to signs of mental illnesses and substance use disorders. The training gives you the skills you need to reach out and provide initial help and support to someone who may be developing a mental health or substance use problem or experiencing a crisis.

MHFA training courses are hosted by local mental health authorities and local behavioral health authorities located across the state. To find upcoming MHFA training courses, visit the [Mental Health Texas Public Events Calendar webpage](#).

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, 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, July 14, 2021, 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. CT

Texas Title V Transition Learning Collaborative

Wednesday, August 11, 2021, Noon – 1:30 p.m. CT

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

National Coalition for Mental Health Recovery Conference: Alternatives 2021

The National Coalition for Mental Health Recovery is pleased to announce the 35th annual Alternatives Conference, to be held virtually over four non-consecutive days on July 8, 10, 15, and 17, 2021.

Alternatives 2021 will be a “working conference” where attendees will return to their roots of advocacy and social justice. In addition to a wide array of keynotes, workshops, and fun events, conference participants will be able to join work groups to develop action steps in key priority areas. These may include starting and running peer respites as alternatives to hospitalization, as well as developing and implementing warmlines and creating crisis response teams; examining what advocacy and support look like in a Covid-19 world; and many other relevant topics.

For more information, visit the [Alternatives 2021 Conference website](#).

NAMICon 2021

Join the National Alliance on Mental Illness for NAMICon 2021 which will be held virtually on July 27-28, 2021. This national conference will focus on bringing people together for mental health. Anyone interested in and impacted by mental health should attend this event dedicated to uplifting, empowering and informing communities with resources, research, support and programming.

To register, visit the [NAMI National Convention webpage](#).

American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD) Texas Chapter’s 45th Annual Convention

Registration is now open for the AAIDD Texas Chapter’s 45th Annual Convention which will be held on July 27-30, 2021 in Corpus Christi, TX. The theme this year, Supporting the IDD Community for 45+ Years! reflects the changes and challenges faced by all service providers and service recipients in Texas for almost half a century. Presentations provided during the convention are designed to increase your knowledge and skills to provide better services and supports for persons with IDD and their caregivers.

To register, visit the [AAIDD Texas Chapter 2021 Convention webpage](#).

The 2021 Institute

Save the date for The 2021 Institute hosted by the Health and Human Services Commission on August 17-19, 2021. The theme for this year's event is Cultivating Wellness Through Resilience and Equitable Practices. The goal of The Institute is to provide education and training that address the changing needs of a variety of populations within the Texas behavioral health system that includes multiple state agencies, private providers, clinicians, caregivers, and community stakeholders.

2021 National Big Texas Rally for Recovery

For more than 30 years, during the month of September, communities and local organizations from across the country host celebrations in honor of the National Recovery Month observation. These activities take many forms that bring public attention to recovery and challenge negative attitudes, stigma, and discrimination.

For nearly a decade, a vital part of this tradition has included the Rally for Recovery – a national event hosted by the Center for Recovery and Wellness Resources, a charter member of the Association of Recovery Community Organizations (ARCO), to deliver a recovery-centered program that celebrates recovery of individuals, families, and entire communities across America. This year's National Rally for Recovery will be hosted in Houston, Texas on September 18, 2021.

Dignitaries from the national recovery movement, public officials, and persons in recovery, families, community supporters, speakers, and friends of recovery will all join the celebration to inspire and replenish the passion for recovery. There will be a large youth area with plenty of positive fun, family-friendly activities, and food.

To learn more, visit the [National Big Texas Rally website](#).

Engage & Excel 2021

The Engage & Excel 2021 conference hosted by Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute will be held September 30-October 1, 2021. This conference equips participants to put ground-breaking mental health policy into practice. Join national experts, innovative policymakers, and trailblazing community leaders to elevate the impact of your work. Registration is open now through September 24, 2021. CEUs will be offered free of charge for Licensed Master Social Workers (LMSWs), Licensed Clinical Social Workers (LCSWs), Licensed Professional Counselors (LPCs), Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists (LMFTs) and psychologists in Texas.

To register, visit the [Engage & Excel 2021 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, TX. 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 communities they support and partner with.

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