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CRCG Events Calendar

July 25-27 – 2023 TxSOC and CRCG Conference

August 9 – Leader Training and Bridge Call, 10-11:30 a.m. CDT

August 23 – Restorative Practices for CRCGs Webinar Series: Part 5, 2-3 p.m. CDT

September 13 – Leader Training and Bridge Call, 10-11:30 a.m. CDT

State CRCG Office Updates

2023 Texas System of Care and CRCG Conference: Registration Now Open



TxSOC & CRCG Conference
Building Authentic Connection
Reconnecting • Reimagining • Revitalizing

Registration is now open for the 2023 Texas System of Care (TxSOC) and CRCG Conference, which will be

held July 25-27, 2023 at The University of Texas at Austin's J.J. Pickle Research Campus in Austin, Texas. Attendees will have an option to participate in-person or virtually. The conference theme is "Building Authentic Connection: Reconnecting, Reimagining, and Revitalizing." This collaborative event is for youth, family members, state leaders, child-serving providers, and community leaders. Topics will focus on building authentic connections, spotlighting voices with lived experience, and collaborating to improve mental health outcomes.

Please register on the [2023 TxSOC and CRCG Conference](#) website by July 10, 2023.

Continuing education units will be offered. Hotel room blocks are available at the [Hampton Inn](#) and [Home2Suites](#).

If you have questions about the conference, please email info@txsystemofcare.org.

CRCG Site Visits

Harrison and Panola Counties CRCG

Thank you to Justina Boone, CRCG Co-Chair of the Harrison and Panola Counties CRCG, for taking on additional leadership duties while the group is seeking individuals to help fill other leadership roles. Justina recently picked up the data reporter role for the group and met with the State CRCG Office in April to receive training on how to enter and submit CRCG data. Additionally, the meeting provided an opportunity to discuss ways to distribute leadership duties among current members, how to recruit new partners, and ways to provide more structure to the group to increase participation and engagement from members.

Bailey County CRCG

In April, the State CRCG Office met with Ruby Vidaurre, representative from the Texas Department of State Health Services, and Rebecca Williams, Chair of the Crosby, Dickens, and King Counties CRCG and Garza County CRCG, about reestablishing a CRCG in Bailey County. The State CRCG Office discussed resources and steps to get the group off the ground. Thank you to Ruby for taking the time to initiate the process of restarting the CRCG and special thanks to Rebecca for providing support to Ruby. The State CRCG Office looks forward to the valuable service the CRCG will provide to their community soon.

Chambers and Liberty County CRCG

In May, the State CRCG Office met with Graciela Trevizo, Chair of the Chambers and Liberty County CRCG and Assistant Chief Juvenile Probation Officer at the Liberty County Juvenile Probation Department. The meeting provided an opportunity to discuss CRCG resources and the CRCG Training Toolkit. We were also able to review leadership duties and task delegation and provide a tutorial of the CRCG data collection system. It was a pleasure connecting with Graciela and learning more about the Chambers and Liberty Counties CRCG!

Blanco County CRCG

The State CRCG Office welcomed Amber Corder, new CRCG Chair of the

Blanco County CRCG and Project Coordinator of the Drug Free Community Support Grant at Blanco Independent School District, during a virtual meeting in May. At the meeting, we discussed her new role and the status of the group in getting established. We also reviewed training and support resources and went over the CRCG data collection system.

Coke, Concho, Crockett, Irion, Reagan, Sterling, and Tom Green Counties CRCG

The Coke, Concho, Crockett, Irion, Reagan, Sterling, and Tom Green Counties CRCG welcomed two new co-chairs to their leadership team this year, Katie Apperson, Parent Partner for the Prevention and Early Intervention Programs at the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS), and Tonya Heath, Family Services Specialist at the DFPS. They will be supporting William Tucker, Chair and Transition Support Specialist at High Sky Children's Ranch. The State CRCG Office had the pleasure of meeting with the new co-chairs and welcoming them to their new roles. The meeting provided a time to get to know more about the leadership team structure for the CRCG. The State CRCG Office was also able to share information about resources and support that they offer to local groups.

State CRCG Office Available for Virtual Technical Assistance

The State CRCG Office is available for virtual training and technical assistance, including helping to 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. Popular links include:

[CRCG Training Toolkit](#)

[Waco Center for Youth One Pager](#)

[Waco Center for Youth Letter of Recommendation Outline](#)

Webinar Recordings

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

[Restorative Practices for CRCGs Parts 1-4](#)

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 who may 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

Spotlight on CRCGs

Welcome New CRCG Leaders

A special welcome to the new CRCG leaders that have volunteered to take on key roles in the spring of 2023:

- Tiffany Smith, Chair of the Armstrong, Carson, and Hutchinson Counties CRCG
- Ruby Vidaurre, Co-Chair of the Bailey County CRCG
- Jana Irons, Co-Chair of the Bexar County CRCG
- Katie Apperson and Tonya Heath, Co-Chairs of the Coke, Concho, Crockett, Irion, Reagan, Sterling, and Tom Green Counties CRCG
- Sierra Shaw, Co-Chair of the McLennan County Children and Youth CRCG
- Rosanne Wagner, Chair, and Kimberly Omenciski, Co-Chair, of the Victoria County CRCG
- Amber Corder, Chair, and Dawn Capra, Co-Chair, of the Blanco County CRCG

We appreciate the time and commitment that these leaders devote to supporting their local CRCGs and communities.

To share success stories for upcoming newsletters, email the State CRCG Office at CRCG@hsc.state.tx.us.

Bexar County Celebrates One Year System of Care Anniversary

On *May the 4th be with you*, the Bexar County Children and Youth CRCG and Bexar System of Care (SOC) celebrated their first anniversary as an SOC. Community-based organizations gathered and learned about all the connections created and how these connections are raising organizational capacity, topics for the SOC to consider, and next steps for the Bexar SOC. The 60-plus participants were treated to locally made Star Wars cookies of Grogu and the Mandalorian as Grogu is a foster child and Mandalorian is his foster dad. The group participated in many networking activities, including creating a painting that will be used as the 2023 Bexar SOC logo. Each time the participants see this, they will see themselves in the Bexar SOC work.



Figure 1: The Bexar County CRCG and Bexar SOC celebrated their first anniversary as a SOC.



Figure 2: Participants were treated to locally made Star Wars cookies of Grogu and the Mandalorian.



Figure 3: The group participated in many networking activities, including creating a painting that will be used as their 2023 Bexar SOC logo.



Figure 4: Bexar SOC logo

Upcoming CRCG Events

Monthly Leader Training and Bridge Call

The monthly leader training and bridge call, hosted by the State CRCG Office, offers a time to provide training and technical assistance to CRCG leaders

and answer questions, as well as an opportunity for leaders to share ideas, discuss challenges, and network. A portion of these sessions is dedicated to regional cohort breakout rooms to allow leaders to connect and build partnerships with other CRCGs in their region.

All CRCG leaders are welcome and encouraged to join each month. The training occurs every second Wednesday of the month from 10–11:30 a.m. CDT. A calendar invite is sent to all CRCG leaders with the meeting information. Upcoming dates and times include:

- August 9, 2023, 10-11:30 a.m. CDT / 9-10:30 a.m. MDT
- September 13, 2023, 10-11:30 a.m. CDT / 9-10:30 a.m. MDT

For questions or additional information, please contact the State CRCG Office at CRCG@hsc.state.tx.us.

Restorative Practices for CRCGs Webinar Series: Strengthening Individual, Family, School, and Community Partnerships

Join the State CRCG Office and Region 4 Education Service Center for the Restorative Practices for CRCGs Webinar Series: Strengthening Individual, Family, School, and Community Partnerships.

The purpose of this webinar series is to provide introductory information on the principles of Restorative Practices. The final session in the series, titled How to Implement Circle Practices during CRCG Meetings: Part 2, will be held on August 23, 2023, from 2-3 p.m. CDT.

To register for the webinar series, visit the [Restorative Practices for CRCGs 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

Office of Mental Health Coordination

Veterans Mental Health Services

Texas Health and Human Services Highlights Veteran Suicide and Post-traumatic Stress Disorder Awareness Month

During Veteran Suicide and Post-traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Awareness Month in June, Texas Health and Human Services (HHS) shared mental health resources available to service members, veterans and their immediate family members.

“There is a common misconception that all veterans have PTSD, but this is simply not true,” said George McEntyre, director of Veterans Mental Health Services. “Research shows about 11–30 percent of veterans experience PTSD, and that PTSD is more common among female veterans. The numbers reinforce the need to identify warning signs and symptoms, so those who do need help can get it.”

Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) contracts and partners with the following local, regional, and state organizations to provide vital veterans services:

- Local mental health authorities and local behavioral health authorities provide peer-to-peer counseling services, engaging service members, veterans, and their immediate family members who have experienced military-related trauma, or are at risk of isolation from support services and may not seek services through traditional channels. [Find a peer service coordinator in your community](#). Veterans can find additional resources on networking, crisis assistance, benefits and women’s health on the [MentalHealthTX Veterans](#) webpage.
- Texas A&M University Health Science Center [provides online information and resources through the TexVet program](#) (veterans can [select their zip code](#) to find local resources).
- The [Texas Veterans Commission](#) provides training and technical assistance to peer service coordinators, community-based partners, and mental health providers. It also coordinates services for justice-involved veterans.
- HHSC also offers 2-1-1 Texas, which connects Texans to important services, including food, housing, care for mental health and substance use disorders, and emergency services. Call 2-1-1 or [visit 211texas.org](#).
- [If you need to talk with someone right now](#), mental health crisis services are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- The 11th day of each month is [Buddy Check Day](#) to remind Texas veterans to check in with other veterans. By getting in touch with others, veterans may enjoy camaraderie, check on each other’s well-being and connect another veteran with a service they can use.

- Veterans and active-duty service members, including members of the National Guard and Reserve, may call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 988 (press 1 for the Veterans Crisis Line), [start a confidential online crisis chat session](#) or send a text message to 838255.
- [Visit the Texas Veterans Portal](#) to connect with benefits and services earned through your (or a family member's) military service.

For more resources, visit the [HHSC Mental Health Program for Veterans](#) webpage.

Mental Health First Aid

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](#).

Adult Mental Health

Coordinated Specialty Care

The Coordinated Specialty Care (CSC) program provides outpatient behavioral health services to persons experiencing an early onset of psychosis. Services are provided via a team-based approach with the goal to empower the person's ability to lead a self-directed life within the community. The central mission for the team is helping the person achieve a satisfying, competitive school, or work environment.

Eligibility

People between ages 15-30 with a psychotic disorder diagnosed within the past two years are eligible for these services. Qualified applicants may have private insurance, Medicaid, Medicare, or no health insurance at all.

There are many pathways of referral to CSC, including:

- By self-report of having experienced a psychotic episode;
- Based on results of a uniform assessment; or
- Through an outside referral directly to the local mental health authority, local behavioral health authority, or CSC team.

Persons may be referred from any location in a CSC service area. Once referred, the person will complete an intake to determine program eligibility.

For more information, see [Coordinated Specialty Care for First Episode of Psychosis | Texas Health and Human Services](#) or view the brochures below:

- New! [IDD-BH CSC for Psychosis Brochure](#) (English)
- New! [IDD-BH CSC for Psychosis Brochure](#) (Spanish)

Children’s Mental Health

Children’s Mental Health Residential Treatment Center Project

The Residential Treatment Center (RTC) Project provides treatment support to families with a child at risk of the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services conservatorship due to their mental health needs. The RTC Project connects families to mental health services in their community through their local mental health authority or local behavioral health authority and pays for the cost of room and board at an RTC, if indicated.

HHSC adopted the RTC Project rules effective April 2023. To view the rules, go to the [Texas Administrative Code](#) website.

RTC providers interested in contracting with the RTC Project can find information about the RTC Project Open Enrollment and recent rate increase on the [RTC Project Open Enrollment](#) webpage.

On August 10, 2023, HHSC’s RTC Project team will host a virtual online training for community partners interested in learning more about the RTC Project! The team will provide a comprehensive overview of the RTC Project and describe how to help connect children and families to the RTC Project. To register, visit the [Community Partners with the RTC Project Webinar](#) webpage.

Children’s Crisis Respite

Children’s Crisis Respite (CCR) services provide short-term, community-based residential, crisis treatment to children who have low risk of harm to self or others; and may have a functional impairment requiring direct supervision and care but not acute psychiatric hospitalization.

HHSC contracts with four CCR facilities across Texas: Bluebonnet Trails Community Services, MHMR of Tarrant County, Hill Country Mental Health and Developmental Disability Center, and Heart of Texas Behavioral Health Network. Families interested in obtaining a referral to a CCR may contact one of the four local mental health authorities directly.

The CCR team will present with Hill Country Mental Health and Developmental Disability Center on July 26, 2023, at the 2023 TxSOC and CRCG Conference. To register, visit the [2023 TxSOC and CRCG Conference](#) website.

Rural Mental Health

Texas HHSC Rural Mental Health works to ensure that all Texans have access to care at the right time and the right place.

Rural Mental Health reviewed five years of crisis data and found that, per capita, there are regions in Texas with higher-than-average mental health crisis utilization. Regions identified were parts of South Texas, Central Texas, and East Texas. In response, Rural Mental Health implemented a community engagement pilot to help provide context to those crisis numbers. The community engagement pilot included a community stress management survey which had a total of 826 responses (691 in English and 135 in Spanish).

The survey showed that the core of community members' stressors were non-medical drivers of health, specifically making a livable wage, access to affordable food and housing as well as reliable transportation and broadband. Solving or relieving these challenges looks different for each unique community, and through the community engagement pilot Rural Mental Health learned that the most impactful solutions are community driven.

Based on survey results, participants rank their faith and faith community as a main source of social support and stress relief. With this information Rural Mental Health applied and was approved by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration to provide Triumph over Trauma, a psychoeducational training for faith communities. Through this grant, faith members can learn to support their community in accessing mental health resources and, if they are interested, become Triumph over Trauma trainers.

Rural Mental Health is using information gathered through the community engagement pilot to continue to explore opportunities that support rural Texans in addressing their community's stressors in the next fiscal year.

To contact HHSC's Rural Mental Health unit, email RuralMentalHealth@hhs.texas.gov.

Texas Department of State Health Services

Children with Special Health Care Needs Systems Development Group

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.

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

Transition to Adulthood Learning Collaborative

The CSHCN Systems Development Group leads the statewide [Transition to Adulthood Learning Collaborative](#) quarterly webinars to share knowledge, implementation strategies, new resources, and best or promising practices. The meetings are open to everyone interested, including youth and young adults, parents, providers, community organizations, hospital and university systems, educators, and health plans.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 23, 2023, noon–1:30 p.m. CDT. Elizabeth Danner, State Transition Coordinator with the Texas Education Agency (TEA), will introduce TEA's new Next Steps to Independence Checklist tool. She'll show participants how families, educators, and others can use the tool to help youth develop skills to maximize adulthood autonomy. The tool highlights critical developmental milestones organized by age: birth-age 3, age 3-5, elementary school, middle school, high school, and age 18-22. Bring your questions and please share this information with others who may be interested. To register, visit the [Transition to Adulthood Learning Collaborative Meeting](#) webpage.

For more information about the Transition to Adulthood Learning Collaborative and CSHCN Systems Development Group initiatives, please email Ivy Goldstein, State CSHCN Health Coordinator at ivy.goldstein@dshs.texas.gov.

Other News and Events

18th Annual Statewide Parent Conference

Register now for the 18th Annual Statewide Parent Conference hosted by Texas Parent to Parent (TxP2P), July 14-15, 2023, at the Embassy Suites in San Marcos, Texas.

The conference helps Texas parents learn how to deal with the unique issues and challenges they face on a daily basis in caring for their children. The two-day conference offers 50 sessions within several tracks, each covering a different topic. The tracks include: advocacy (general and legislative), parenting and sibling issues (and a Sibshop), special education law (basic to advanced), medical issues (including Medical Home and Medicaid Waiver Programs), behavior, mental health, parent leadership, resources and services, self-advocacy, transition issues for youth and young adults with disabilities, and creating a good life for people with disabilities.

The conference will feature:

- 7 sessions in Spanish (interpreters available for 3-4 additional sessions);
- Skilled childcare – space is limited;
- Sibshop Program for siblings;
- Peer-to-Peer Summit – a two-day conference within the conference for teens and young adults with and without disabilities;
- Family Fun Night – light appetizers and entertainment for the whole family; and
- Approximately 50 exhibitors including nonprofit organizations, state agencies, therapy centers, specialized products, mobility vendors, and many more.

To learn more, visit the [TxP2P Parent Conference](#) webpage.

The Texas HHSC Institute

The Texas HHSC Institute (The Institute) hosted by the Texas HHSC, will be held July 17-20, 2023, at the University of Texas at Austin Commons Center in Austin, Texas and virtually. The Institute is a conference that provides education and training for state agencies, private providers, clinicians, caregivers, and other stakeholders with a vested interest in addressing the intellectual, mental, and behavioral health needs of a variety of populations.

The Institute brings together speakers who inspire, suggest innovative approaches, and instruct attendees on how to achieve integration and

implementation. Sessions promote individual, program, and system-level approaches that foster health, resilience, and recovery; increase permanent housing, employment, education, and other necessary supports; and reduce barriers to equity and inclusion.

To learn more, visit [The Texas HHSC Institute](#) website.

2023 Quality in Long-Term Care Conference

The 2023 Quality in Long-Term Care Conference hosted by Texas HHSC and The University of Texas Steve Hicks School of Social Work, will be held August 22-23, 2023 at the Renaissance Hotel in Austin, Texas. This year's theme is, "Making a Commitment to Person-Centered Long-Term Care."

The conference offers presentations from nationally and internationally recognized experts. Topics include:

- Caring for people with dementia
- Infection prevention and control
- Long COVID considerations in long-term care
- Current health care trends
- Cutting-edge advances in long-term care, aging, and disability services.

The conference is free, and continuing education credit will be available for various health care disciplines.

To learn more, visit the [2023 Quality in Long-Term Care Conference](#) website.

Save the Date: 40th Annual Adult Protective Services Conference

The 40th Annual Adult Protective Services (APS) Conference hosted by the Texas DFPS, will be held October 10-13, 2023 at the Renaissance Austin Hotel in Austin, Texas.

At APS, the mantra is "Protecting the Unprotected." This is what APS does. Their mission is to protect older adults and persons with disabilities from abuse, neglect, and exploitation. But they don't do this work alone! APS counts on the efforts of a wide variety of partners. And the 40th Annual Conference will provide an opportunity to highlight the importance of these unsung heroes who help serve vulnerable clients.

DFPS is now accepting applications for exhibitors and sponsors. Applications are due by August 31, 2023.

To learn more, visit the [40th Annual APS Conference](#) webpage.

6th Annual Judicial Summit on Mental Health

The 6th Annual Judicial Summit on Mental Health, hosted by the Texas Judicial Commission on Mental Health, will be held October 18-20, 2023 at the Moody Gardens in Galveston, Texas and virtually. The Summit will include opportunities to connect with colleagues, establish new relationships, and engage in learning sessions designed to be inspiring yet practical. Participants will receive tools to help navigate the complex mental health laws. Registration is free but capacity is limited.

To learn more, visit the [Judicial Summit on Mental Health](#) website.

Save the Date: Partners in Prevention Conference

The Partners in Prevention (PIP) Conference hosted by the Texas DFPS, will be held November 14-16, 2023 at the Renaissance Austin Hotel in Austin, 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, 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 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.

Save the Date: American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Texas Chapter 47th Annual Convention

The American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD) Texas Chapter 47th Annual Convention hosted by AAIDD Texas Chapter, is scheduled for November 14-17, 2023 at the Grand Galvez in Galveston, Texas. The convention seeks to draw professionals, direct support staff, self-advocates, and family members with an interest in all the issues facing people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

To learn more, visit the [AAIDD Texas Chapter website](#).