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CRCG Events Calendar

January 12 – Monthly Leader Training, 10-11 a.m. CST

January 18 – CRCG Bridge Call, 1:30-3 p.m. CST

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

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

February 17 – CRCG Recognition Awards Ceremony, 12-12:30 p.m. CST

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

March 15 – CRCG Bridge Call, 1:30-3 p.m. CDT

State CRCG Office Updates

2021 CRCG Recognition Awards

The State CRCG Office would like to thank CRCG leaders and members who submitted nominations for the 2021 CRCG Recognition Awards. We received many nominations for the CRCG Shining Star and Outstanding CRCG Awards, and both awards highlight the fantastic work that is happening in local communities across the state.

The following individuals and CRCGs were nominated for the awards:

CRCG Shining Star Award Nominees

Alice Alvarez, Bexar County CRCG

Araceli Guerrero, Hidalgo County CRCG and
Cameron and Willacy Counties CRCG

Jim Wright, Grayson County CRCG, Fannin County
CRCG and Collin County CRCG

Judy Blake, Harris County CRCG

Julia Harris, Tarrant County CRCG

Nishona King, Brazoria County CRCG

Sam Gonzalez, Bexar County CRCG

Susan Badger, Montgomery County CRCG

Tina Lincoln, Hill County CRCG

Outstanding CRCG Award Nominee

Hidalgo County CRCG

Winners have been selected and will be honored during a virtual awards ceremony on February 17, 2022, from noon to 12:30 p.m. CST. The event will feature remarks from the State CRCG Office, as well as award announcements.

To register for the virtual awards ceremony, visit the [GoToWebinar](#) webpage.

CRCG Site Visits

State CRCG Office Meets with New CRCG Leaders

The State CRCG Office welcomed several new CRCG leaders across the state during the last quarter virtual meeting. At these meetings, the State CRCG Office was able to orient leaders to their new roles, review the core functions and structure of leadership teams, go over CRCG resources and available support, and answer any initial questions from the leaders as they embarked on their new roles. The meetings also provide opportunities to go over data collection, reporting requirements and how data collection can be beneficial to CRCGs. Welcome meetings occurred with the following new leaders:

- Christi Lundby and Christine Appleby, Co-Chairs, Llano County CRCG
- Rosemary Torres, Co-Chair, Upshur County CRCG
- Suzanne Huguley, Chair, Hansford and Ochiltree Counties CRCG
- Carolyn Mertz, Chair, Guadalupe County CRCG meeting

The State CRCG Office always enjoys connecting with and supporting new CRCG leaders. We look forward to hearing about the great work each person will accomplish with their CRCGs.

State CRCG Office Available for Virtual Technical Assistance

The State CRCG Office is available for virtual training and technical assistance, including help navigating virtual platforms or attending practice meetings. Please email the State CRCG Office at CRCG@hsc.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. New and recently updated resources include:

[CRCG Training Toolkit](#)

Webinar Recordings

The State CRCG Office webinars bring valuable resources and information to CRCG partners and members. Visit the [CRCG Training and Technical Assistance webpage](#) to view 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'd like to share, please contact the State CRCG Office.

CRCG@hsc.state.tx.us

512-206-5255

Spotlight on CRCGs

Thank You to CRCGs for Your Service in 2021

The State CRCG Office gives a big thank you to CRCG leaders and members for continuing to provide CRCG services despite the many barriers and challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. It is awe-inspiring to see how resilient and adaptable CRCGs have been over the last year. Many CRCGs changed their meeting formats to virtual or hybrid options to safely meet with community partners, individuals, and families with complex needs. As the new year begins, the State CRCG Office looks forward to growing our relationships with CRCGs, supporting CRCGs in accomplishing their goals, and most of all, continuing to see CRCGs making a difference in the lives of people they serve.

The State CRCG Office acknowledges efforts and successes of various CRCGs. To share success stories for upcoming newsletters, email the State CRCG Office at CRCG@hsc.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 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 email the State CRCG Office at CRCG@hsc.state.tx.us.

- Jan. 18, 2022, 1:30–3 p.m. CST / 12:30–2 p.m. MST
- Feb. 15, 2022, 1:30–3 p.m. CST / 12:30–2 p.m. MST
- March 15, 2022, 1:30–3 p.m. CDT / 12:30–2 p.m. MDT

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. CT. 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@hsc.state.tx.us.

- Jan. 12, 2022, 10-11 a.m. CST / 9-10 a.m. MST
- Feb. 9, 2022, 10-11 a.m. CST / 9-10 a.m. MST
- March 9, 2022, 10-11 a.m. CST / 9-10 a.m. MST

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](#).

CRCG Partner Agency Updates

Health and Human Services Commission

Office of Mental Health Coordination

2022 Mental Health Awareness Creative Arts Contest

In recognition of May as Mental Health Awareness Month, the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC), in partnership with Texas System of Care and the University of Texas at Austin’s Texas Institute for Excellence in Mental Health, presents the 2022 Mental Health Awareness Creative Arts Contest for both children and adults.

This annual event is designed to shine a light on the taboo topic of mental illness and further the effort to reduce the stigma associated with mental

illness. As a result, we believe more Texans of all ages will seek help when needed.

The theme of this year's event is "Why Mental Health Matters to You." The contest is open to all Texans as we invite students and adults to participate in their respective age group: Elementary, Middle School, High School, and Adults. Through their entries, contestants will help demystify mental illness and spread awareness by sharing their unique expressions of what mental health looks and feels like to them.

For more information, visit <https://gallery.txsystemofcare.org/>.

Texas WIC

About WIC

Have you ever wondered what the pink WIC labels are at the grocery store? WIC stands for the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC), and is a nutrition program for pregnant, postpartum and breastfeeding women and families with children younger than the age of five. If an item has a pink WIC label, it is one of the many healthy foods offered by Texas WIC.

While WIC is best known for providing healthy foods, the program offers so much more. Participants can receive personalized counseling with nutritionists and Registered Dietitians, breastfeeding support, attend classes and get referrals to other services in their area.

A Houston WIC participant said, "The ladies at WIC are super nice, very professional, very knowledgeable and very helpful. I love to take classes because you learn so much from them. I love how they provide lots of information with pamphlets and everything to help you during your pregnancy and ongoing. I wish I would have gotten some of that information before I had my first baby!"

Eligibility

WIC serves pregnant, postpartum and breastfeeding women and families with children younger than five years old. Dads, grandparents and guardians can also apply for WIC and get benefits for their children.

Many households think that they make too much and won't qualify for WIC. However, WIC is open to many incomes and families. Medicaid, TANF or SNAP recipients already meet the income eligibility guidelines for WIC. Even if a family doesn't qualify for these programs, they may still qualify for WIC by meeting the [income guidelines](#).

WIC Client Services

WIC provides:

- [Healthy foods](#) like milk, eggs, cheese, peanut butter, bread, cereals and fruits and vegetables.
- Breastfeeding support from peer counselors, lactation consultants (IBCLCs), a 24/7 hotline and five Lactation Care Centers.
- [Online](#) and in-person nutrition education classes.
- Personalized nutrition counseling.

A Medina County WIC participant said, "Breastfeeding isn't always easy, so having someone there to help get through the bumps is such a help! I really appreciate having the ability to go in and have my baby's weight checked. As a breastfeeding momma, I wonder if my baby is eating enough. Having the reassurance is a blessing and helps to have one less thing to worry about. I also appreciate having a peer counselor available by phone or in person to help me."

How to refer Someone to Texas WIC

TexasWIC.org and BreastmilkCounts.com both have resources online and available to all families at no cost.

If you wish to refer someone to Texas WIC, ask them to visit texaswic.org/apply and start their application online.

Resources

- [TexasWIC.org](https://texaswic.org)
 - ▶ Start an application online, take free online classes, find kid-friendly recipes, activities and more.
- [Breastmilkcounts.com](https://breastmilkcounts.com)
 - ▶ A one-stop breastfeeding resource from the experts at Texas WIC.
- Lactation Support Hotline: 855-550-6667
 - ▶ 24/7 Breastfeeding assistance available to all moms at no cost.
- [Lactation Care Centers](#)
 - ▶ Breastfeeding counseling for all moms at no cost.
- [Healthy Texas Kids YouTube Channel](#)
 - ▶ Join Zobey and friends to get the kids moving to fun songs and dances.

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, and 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, Jan. 12, 2022, 10–11:30 a.m. CST

Transition to Adulthood Learning Collaborative

Wednesday, Feb. 9, 2022, Noon–1:30 p.m. CST

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

2022 Texas Association of School Administrators (TASA) Midwinter Conference

The 2022 TASA Midwinter Conference will be held on January 30–February 2, 2022 in Austin, Texas. The conference brings together Texas education

leaders to discuss and share innovative practices, network with peers, address the administrative issues administrators face every day, and gain fresh insights.

To learn more, visit the [TASA Midwinter Conference](#) website.

Central Texas African American Family Support Conference

The Central Texas African American Family Support Conference will be held virtually on February 8-9, 2022. The conference will talk about how race, social conditions and economic status affects what diseases and conditions a person may struggle with. Attendees will explore how these factors affect our experience with health care and what we can do as individuals and as a community to address these challenges. This conference is an opportunity for attendees to reduce stigma and confront bias while increasing access to care. Participants will come together to lift one another up and move towards a healthier future. When people have a strong foundation of physical and mental health, they can reach their full potential.

To learn more, visit the [Central Texas African American Family Support Conference](#) website.

2nd Mental Health Technology Transfer Center Network (MHTTC) Grief Sensitivity Virtual Learning Institute

The 2nd Mental Health Technology Transfer Center Network (MHTTC) Grief Sensitivity Virtual Learning Institute will be held virtually on February 23-24, 2022. This event is for those supporting individuals (general mental health and school mental health populations) experiencing grief and loss through COVID-19 and beyond. Full session lineups coming soon.

To learn more, visit the [MHTTC Grief Sensitivity Virtual Learning Institute](#) webpage.

31st Annual Texas School Social Workers Conference

The 31st Annual Texas School Social Workers Conference hosted by The University of Texas at Austin Steve Hicks School of Social Work will be held virtually on February 23-25, 2022. The conference is designed to offer school-based service providers an array of effective techniques and programs to enhance their work as they meet the challenges found in today's school settings. Conference participants will gain new strategies and tools to empower children, parents and school personnel.

To learn more, visit the [31st Annual Texas School Social Workers Conference](#) webpage.