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## **CRCG Events Calendar**

**July 10** – Leader Training and Bridge Call 10-11:30 a.m. CDT

**August 14** – Leader Training and Bridge Call 10-11:30 a.m. CDT

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

## **State CRCG Office Updates**

### **CRCG Regional Coordinators**

The State CRCG Office is expanding and adding six CRCG regional coordinator positions across the state. The primary role of the CRCG regional coordinators will be to provide regional support and training for the CRCG program. We look forward to sharing more updates about these positions.

### **State CRCG Office Will Host an Exhibitor's Booth at the 2024 Texas HHSC Institute**

The State CRCG Office team will host an exhibitor's booth at the 2024 Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) Institute conference, July 22-26, 2024, at the University of Texas at Austin's Commons Conference Center in Austin, Texas. The 2024 conference theme is "Shaping the Future: Change, Create, Collaborate." The aim of the conference is to provide education and training for state agencies, private providers, clinicians, caregivers, and other stakeholders with a vested interest in addressing behavioral health needs of a variety of populations. The State CRCG Office looks forward to sharing information about CRCGs, including how to connect and get involved with CRCGs, with the conference participants.

# CRCG Site Visits

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## **McLennan County Adult and Family CRCG**

The State CRCG Office was invited to attend the McLennan County Adult and Family CRCG meeting in April. The meeting was facilitated by Tiffany Soto, former CRCG Chair, and John Vorderkunz, current CRCG Chair. At the meeting, a staffing was held for a person with complex needs. During a staffing, CRCGs partner with individuals and families who need interagency coordination to discuss their strengths, needs, previous services, and barriers; brainstorm ideas for appropriate services and supports; and create individual service plans (ISPs) and help locate and access services and supports. The person referred requested assistance with guardianship and community-based services and supports.

The meeting was well attended by a variety of professionals and community members who came together to support the person needing assistance. The CRCG provided meaningful and person-centered recommendations for the person's ISP. The State CRCG Office was impressed with the care and commitment of the local CRCG team.

## **Brush and Quad Country CRCGs**

In April, the State CRCG Office met with the new leaders of the Brush and Quad Country CRCGs to welcome them to their new roles and share CRCG resources. Linda Ramos Perez, Chair, and Meagan Blanco, Co-Chair, will lead the Brush Country CRCG which covers Brooks, Duval, Jim Wells, Kenedy, and Kleberg counties. Linda Ramos-Perez, Chair, and Sylvia Castillo, Co-Chair, will lead the Quad Country CRCG which covers Aransas, Bee, Live Oak, and San Patricio counties. All the new leaders are representatives from Coastal Plains Integrated Health and bring valuable knowledge of local behavioral health services to the CRCGs.

## **Guadalupe and Gonzales Counties CRCG**

The Guadalupe County CRCG has expanded their service area to include Gonzales County. Special thanks to Chair Jaclyn Mitchell, LBSW, Human Services Specialist VII, Specialized Health and Social Services, Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), for spearheading the effort to add the new county to the CRCG's service area.

The State CRCG Office had the opportunity to attend the May CRCG meeting. At the meeting, there were several staffings held for children, youth, and their families. Representatives from DSHS, Bluebonnet Trails Community

Services, Texas Health Steps, Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS), Seguin Independent School District (ISD), Nixon-Smilely Consolidated ISD, Comal ISD, and the local Juvenile Probation Department came together to support the staffings. The CRCG members thoughtfully collaborated with each other to develop recommendations for coordinated services and supports for the individuals involved in the staffings.

### **Freestone and Limestone Counties CRCG**

The Freestone and Limestone Counties CRCG has a new leadership team. Colette Pauley, LBSW, Social Worker II, Health Service Region 7 Specialized Health and Social Services at DSHS, is the new chair of the CRCG. Sara Wallace, M.A., Program Specialist, Center for Developmental Services at the Heart of Texas Behavioral Health Network, will be supporting Colette as the new co-chair of the CRCG. The State CRCG Office enjoyed meeting with both leaders in May and welcoming them to their new roles.

### **Bexar County Adult CRCG**

Bexar County has formed a new Bexar County Adult CRCG that will serve adults with complex needs. This group will function separately from the Bexar County Children and Youth CRCG. The Bexar County Adult CRCG will be chaired by Dr. Kaci Howard, PsyD, Founder and Owner of Innova Recovery Center in San Antonio, Texas. The State CRCG Office attended the June CRCG meeting to learn more about the group. Special thanks to Alice Alvarez and Tanya Joplin, CRCG leaders of the Bexar County Children and Youth CRCG, who have been providing guidance to the Bexar County Adult CRCG as they get established.

### **State CRCG Office Available for Virtual Technical Assistance**

The State CRCG Office is available for virtual training and technical assistance, including help to navigate virtual platforms and attending practice meetings. Please email the State CRCG Office at [CRCG@hpsc.state.tx.us](mailto:CRCG@hpsc.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](#)

### Webinar Recordings

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

[Restorative Practices for CRCGs Webinar Series](#)

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 you would like to share, please contact the State CRCG Office.

[CRCG@hpsc.state.tx.us](mailto:CRCG@hpsc.state.tx.us)

512-206-5255

## Spotlight on CRCGs

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### Welcome New CRCG Leaders

A special welcome to the new CRCG leaders who volunteered to take on key roles:

- Juliethe Leon, Chair; Christa Hitt, Co-Chair; Kristy Delony, Notetaker; Jean Gholson, Data Reporter; and Amanda Necessary; Bell, Coryell, and Milam Counties CRCG
- Minda Ponthieu, Chair, Orange County CRCG
- Sabrina Kelley, Chair, San Jacinto County CRCG
- Linda Ramos-Perez, Chair, and Sylvia Castillo, Co-Chair, Quad Country CRCG (covering Aransas, Bee, Live Oak, and San Patricio counties)
- Linda Ramos-Perez, Chair, and Meagan Blanco, Co-Chair, Brush Country CRCG (covering Brooks, Duval, Jim Wells, Kenedy, and Kleberg counties)
- Jalal Khader, Chair, and Anna Drummond, Co-Chair, Denton County CRCG
- Melisse Fabian, Coordinator, Travis County CRCG - Community Partners for Children
- Dr. Kaci Howard, Chair, Bexar County Adult CRCG
- Colette Pauley, Chair, and Sara Wallace, Co-Chair, Freestone and Limestone Counties CRCG

The State CRCG Office appreciates the time and commitment these leaders devote to supporting their local CRCGs and communities.

To share success stories for upcoming newsletters, email the State CRCG Office at [CRCG@hpsc.state.tx.us](mailto:CRCG@hpsc.state.tx.us).

# Upcoming CRCG Events

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## Monthly Leader Training and Bridge Call

The monthly leader training and bridge call, hosted by the State CRCG Office, offers 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 for 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. CT. A calendar invite is sent to all CRCG leaders with the meeting information. Upcoming dates and times include:

- July 10, 2024, 10-11:30 a.m. CDT / 9-10:30 a.m. MDT
- August 14, 2024, 10-11:30 a.m. CDT / 9-10:30 a.m. MDT
- September 11, 2024, 10-11:30 a.m. CDT / 9-10:30 a.m. MDT

For questions or more information, please contact the State CRCG Office at [CRCG@hhsc.state.tx.us](mailto:CRCG@hhsc.state.tx.us).

# CRCG Partner Agency Updates

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## Texas Health and Human Services Commission

### Office of Mental Health Coordination

#### Texas System of Care

#### Texas Mental Health Creative Arts Contest

For the 2024 Texas Mental Health Creative Arts Contest, over 600 participants of all ages submitted original artwork, writing, and photography that answered the question: “Why Does Mental Health Matter to You?” The contest raises awareness of mental health experiences, challenges stigma, and provides an opportunity to express complex emotions through creative outlets. The 37 winners across 10 categories were announced on May 1, and their winning art can be viewed on the [Winners | Texas Mental Health Creative Arts Contest \(txsystemofcare.org\) webpage](https://txsystemofcare.org).

#### 2024 System of Care Virtual Summit, All Systems Go: Taking Action Together

The 2024 System of Care Virtual Summit (SOC Summit) was hosted by the National Training and Technical Assistance Center (NTTAC) for Child, Youth, and Family Mental Health virtually on May 14-16, 2024. All sessions were recorded and can be accessed on the [NTTAC YouTube channel](#).

As part of the SOC Summit, Kaylah Topasna, Youth Engagement Specialist, and Ophelia Jaushlin, Assistant Project Director, led a session titled "A Texas Initiative: Cultivating Authentic Youth Partnership in a System of Care." The presentation highlighted efforts in Texas to incorporate authentic youth partnership by amplifying the voice of transition-age youth (TAY) who have culturally diverse lived experience navigating the mental health system. It can be accessed on the [A Texas Initiative: Cultivating Authentic Youth Partnership in a System of Care \(youtube.com\) 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](#).

## **Texas Department of State Health Services**

### **Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs Systems Development Group**

The [Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs \(CYSHCN\) 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 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](#).

### **New CYSHCN Director**

We are excited to announce the selection of Kristi Miller as the program's new CYSHCN Director. In Kristi's previous role with HHSC, she led the state's Critical Incident Management System, Health Insurance Premium Payment program, hospice policy, Intermediate Care Facilities for Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities or Related Conditions policy, and non-emergency medical transportation policy. Kristi brings a wealth of professional and personal experience to her new role.

### **Transition to Adulthood Learning Collaborative**

The CYSHCN 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 August 14, 2024, noon-1:30 p.m. CDT. Elizabeth Danner, State Transition Coordinator with the Texas Education Agency, will be the guest speaker and will provide an overview and updates on TEA's transition initiatives. To receive the link to register, please email [ivy.goldstein@dshs.texas.gov](mailto:ivy.goldstein@dshs.texas.gov). Please bring your questions and share this information with others who may be interested!

## **Other News and Events**

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### **Texas Society of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Annual Convention and Scientific Program**

Registration is open for the Texas Society of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (TSCAP) Annual Convention and Scientific Program, hosted by TSCAP, on July 19-21, 2024, in Round Rock, Texas. The 2024 convention theme is "Bridging the Divide: Improving the Integration of Psychiatry and Neurology."

To learn more, visit the [TSCAP Annual Convention and Scientific Program website](#).

## **19th Annual Statewide Parent Conference**

The 19th Annual Statewide Parent Conference, hosted by Texas Parent to Parent, will be held on August 9-10, 2024, in San Marcos, Texas. The conference helps Texas parents learn how to deal with the unique issues and challenges they face daily in caring for their children. The two-day conference offers 50 different 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.

To learn more, visit the [Texas Parent to Parent Statewide Parent Conference webpage](#).

## **Healthier Texas Summit**

Registration is open for the Healthier Texas Summit, hosted by It's Time Texas in collaboration with the University of Texas System, on October 10-11, 2024, in Austin, Texas. The conference brings together thought leaders and health champions to connect, share innovative ideas, and cultivate cross-sector relationships essential for building a healthier Texas.

To learn more, visit the [Healthier Texas Summit website](#).

## **American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Texas Chapter 48th Annual Convention**

Save the date for the American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Texas Chapter (AAIDDTX) 48th Annual Convention, hosted by AAIDDTX, on November 12-15, 2024, in Galveston, Texas. The convention hopes 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 [AAIDDTX website](#).

## **2024 Partners in Prevention Conference**

Save the date for the 2024 Partners in Prevention (PIP) Conference, hosted by DFPS, on November 19-21, 2024, in Denton, Texas. The PIP Conference is the largest yearly 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.

To learn more, visit the [2024 PIP Conference webpage](#).

### **7th Annual Judicial Summit on Mental Health**

The 7th Annual Judicial Summit on Mental Health, hosted by The Supreme Court of Texas and The Texas Court of Criminal Appeals, on November 21-22, 2024, will be held in Allen, 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.

The summit will have resource booths for participants to visit. These booths will feature non-profit, state, and community organizations that work to help people and communities at the intersection of mental health, intellectual and developmental disabilities, and the justice system in Texas.

If your non-profit, community, or government organization would like to reserve a resource booth, visit the [Request to Reserve Resource Booth webpage](#). The application deadline is Friday, August 30, 2024.

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

### **11th Annual Mental Health Conference**

The 11th Annual Mental Health Conference, hosted by the Correctional Management Institute of Texas, will be held on December 2-5, 2024, in Corpus Christi, Texas. Topics covered include juvenile justice and mental health awareness, justice involved juveniles, court ordered hospitalization and medication, connecting courts to jails, basics of trauma, adverse childhood experiences, suicide prevention, intellectual and developmental disabilities, and management of mental illness in the criminal justice system. The conference is open to community corrections staff, jailers, corrections officers, probation officers, judicial staff, specialty courts, law enforcement, support staff, medical staff, and mental health staff.

To learn more, visit the [11th Annual Mental Health Conference webpage](#).