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CRCG Events Calendar

January 14 – Working and Engaging with Youth Series webinar

January 19 – CRCG Bridge Call, 2-3 p.m. CST

February 15 - 2020 CRCG Recognition Awards Virtual Ceremony, 10-11 a.m. CST

February 16 – CRCG Bridge Call, 2-3 p.m. CST

March 16 – CRCG Bridge Call, 2-3 p.m. CDT

July 27 – 29 – 2021 CRCG and TxSOC Conference

State CRCG Office Updates

Save the Date: 2021 CRCG and Texas System of Care Conference

Please save the date for the 2021 CRCG and TxSOC Conference, which will be held virtually July 27 - 29, 2021. This year's conference theme will be Finding the Spark: Inspiring Authentic Collaborations in Our Communities. The conference will focus on moving from coordination to collaboration to improving outcomes for children, youth, young adults, and their families; and will spotlight voices with lived experience. The State CRCG Office and TxSOC would like to thank the CRCG leaders and other planning group members who have volunteered to help plan the conference. Additional information will be shared as it is available, including an official save the date.

2020 CRCG Recognition Awards

The State CRCG Office would like to thank CRCG leaders and members who submitted nominations for the 2020 CRCG Recognition Awards. We received many nominations for the CRCG Shining Star Award and the Outstanding CRCG Award and both awards highlight the fantastic work that is happening in local communities across the state.

Winners have been selected and will be honored during a virtual awards ceremony on February 23, 2021, from 11 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. CST. The event will feature remarks from the State CRCG Office and special guest speakers, award announcements, and a

special dedication and remembrance about the life of Cathy Brock, former CRCG leader and valued community member.

Register for the virtual awards ceremony via [GoToWebinar](#). To learn more about the event, including a list of the 2020 nominees, visit the [CRCG website](#).

CRCG and Texas Juvenile Justice Department Joint Presentation

Regine Mojica and Sara Underwood from the State CRCG Office joined Susan Palacios, TJJD Community Mental Health Program Administrator; Sonia Hartman, Chair of the Travis County CRCG; and Isela Santillan, Chair of the Ward County CRCG, at the December West Texas Chief Probation Officers meeting, hosted by William Carter II, Chief Juvenile Probation Officer.

The presentation focused on the connection between CRCGs and local probation departments, the benefits of CRCG participation, and showcased local community CRCG and probation collaborations. We would like to thank William Carter for inviting us to speak, and Susan, Sonia, and Isela for joining us.

Legislative Updates

2020 CRCGs of Texas Legislative Report

The 2020 CRCGs of Texas Report to the legislature is complete. The report highlights 2019 statewide CRCG data and outcomes, State CRCG Office efforts to improve service delivery, and Texas System of Care recommendations. 2019 CRCG outcomes include:

- Local CRCG coverage increased by 18 counties and CRCGs held more CRCG staffings than previous years.
- 86 percent of all staffings conducted resulted in a community-based solution.
- Service availability and client choice are the greatest barriers to clients accessing recommended services.
- Probation officers and Local Mental Health Authorities/Local Behavioral Health Authorities are the two most frequent participants at local CRCG staffings.
- Mental health care, risk behaviors, and being at-risk for placement at an inpatient or residential treatment facility are the most identified needs at staffings.

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.

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.

Suicide Care Series:

[Part One: Suicide Care Overview](#)

[Part Two: Suicide Care Best Practices](#)

Working and Engaging with Youth Series:

[Part Two: LGBTQIA+ Youth](#)

[Part Three: Youth with Co-Occurring Mental Health and Substance Use Challenges](#)

[Part Four: Youth Involved in the Juvenile Justice System](#)

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

- Mental health services, other services/interventions, and placement to inpatient or residential treatment facilities are the leading recommendations on ISPs.

The report is posted on the [CRCG website reports webpage](#) and has been shared with partner agencies, the governor, and Texas legislature. The State CRCG Office would like to thank CRCGs for sharing local data and helping to increase awareness of the critical role CRCGs play in communities.

State CRCG Office Gears Up for the 87th Texas Legislative Session

The State CRCG Office is gearing up for the 87th Texas Legislative session, which begins this January. The office is involved in responding to legislative requests, which includes tracking incoming bills and completing bill analyses to determine how they may impact HHSC and local CRCGs. Learn about new bills that may pertain to CRCGs and track them through the [Texas Legislature Online](#) website.

CRCG Site Visits

State CRCG Office Site Visits

During the COVID-19 pandemic the State CRCG Office has been hosting virtual meetings with new CRCG leaders and data reporters across the state to welcome them to their new roles and provide training and technical assistance. These meetings have provided a great opportunity for the State CRCG Office to connect face-to-face with these leaders, provide resources and tools, answer questions, and learn about their needs and how the state office can best support them.

The State CRCG Office is excited to welcome these individuals to the CRCG community and are very thankful for the leadership, time and commitment

they are providing to serve their local communities. Please join us in providing a warm welcome to these new CRCG leaders and data reporters:

- Ashley Slimp and Isabel Garcia, Anderson and Cherokee Counties CRCG
- Amy Pina, Aransas, Bee, Live Oak, and San Patricio Counties CRCG
- Sid Selan, Bailey and Parmer Counties CRCG
- Alice Alvarez, Bexar County CRCG
- Peggy Langenfeld and Jessica Miller, Burnet County CRCG
- Anna Kate Nobile, Castro and Swisher Counties CRCG
- Janie Stubblefield, Dallas County CRCG
- Gracie Ramirez, Dawson County CRCG
- Elizabeth Solberg, Hale and Lamb Counties CRCG
- Lindy Liles, Tom Green County CRCG

If you're interested in training or technical assistance support, contact the State CRCG Office at CRCG@hhsc.state.tx.us.

Spotlight on CRCGs

The State CRCG Office acknowledges efforts and successes of various CRCGs. To share success stories for upcoming newsletters, send an email to CRCG@hhsc.state.tx.us.

Bexar County CRCG Presents at the State CRCG Workgroup

The State CRCG Office would like to thank Alice Alvarez, Brenda Orozco, and Tanya Jopling who provided an engaging presentation and discussion about the Bexar County CRCG at the State CRCG Workgroup meeting in November, 2020. They gave an overview of the CRCG's structure and shared how COVID-19 has impacted the process, their members, and the individuals and families they serve. The workgroup members appreciated hearing about the great work that is being done in Bexar County and will take that information back to their agencies to help support local CRCGs in 2021.

CRCGs Serve as Mentors

Taking on a CRCG leadership role can be challenging and at times overwhelming, but the new virtual world has created an opportunity for new leaders to participate in established CRCG meetings to learn from other, more experienced leaders. The State CRCG Office launched a mentorship initiative this fall and would like to thank the CRCG leaders who graciously volunteered and have begun connecting with new leaders. Current CRCG mentors include:

- Bill Barber, Fannin and Grayson Counties CRCGs
- Chatoné Strickland, Bexar County CRCG
- Gilda Gil, El Paso County Children and Youth CRCG
- Janette Maldonado-Johnson, Anderson and Cherokee Counties CRCG
- Krystal Lofton and Shawna Gardner, Bastrop, Fayette and Lee Counties CRCG
- Sonia Hartman and Susie Kirk, Travis County CRCG
- Takoya Jackson, Harris County CRCG

Upcoming CRCG Events

CRCG Bridge Call Series

The State CRCG Office offers a monthly bridge call for local CRCG leaders and members to share ideas, discuss challenges, and network. Bridge calls are held every third Tuesday of the month at 2:00 p.m. (CST). Mark your calendars for the upcoming bridge calls and join other CRCGs for collaborative discussions!

If you are a CRCG leader or member interested in attending the monthly bridge calls, reach out to the State CRCG Office at CRCG@hhsc.state.tx.us.

- January 19, 2021, 2 p.m. - 3 p.m. CST / 1 p.m. - 2 p.m. MST
- February 16, 2021, 2 p.m. - 3 p.m. CST / 1 p.m. - 2 p.m. MST
- March 16, 2021, 2 p.m. - 3 p.m. CDT / 1 p.m. - 2 p.m. MDT

CRCG Webinar Series

Working and Engaging with Youth Series Part 4: Youth of Color

The State CRCG Office is concluding the “Working and Engaging with Youth” webinar series presented by the TxSOC with the final webinar on January 14, 2021. Brytani Cavil, an Engagement Specialist at the Texas Institute for Excellence in Mental Health at the University of Texas at Austin and Nicole Trevino, an Independent Consultant focusing on the intersections of adolescent health and culture, will share best practices and explore effective strategies for working and engaging with youth of color. The webinar will address incorporating healing as a strategy to working with youth of color, how to maintain a human-centered approach, and identify barriers to engagement for this population.

The webinar will be from 11 a.m. – 12 p.m. CST on January 14, 2021. A certificate of attendance will be sent after the session.

Register online for the webinar series at [Working and Engaging with Youth Series](#).

Recordings for past webinars in the series are available online on the [CRCG website resources webpage](#).

CRCG Partner Agency Updates

Texas Workforce Commission

The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) has partnered with Metrix Learning to help Texas residents brush up on skills to prepare for better employment opportunities. The Metrix online learning platform provides Texans free online job readiness courses.

The Metrix online learning platform provides unlimited access to more than 5,000 Skillsoft courses used by many Fortune 500 companies. Courses are broken into 30 to 60 minute modules and are presented in English and Spanish. Courses include:

- Customer Service
- Microsoft Office, Adobe, and Quick Books
- Analytical Skills
- Data Management/Reporting
- Time Management
- Leadership Skills
- Health & Safety including First Aid
- And many more skill tracks.

For more information, visit the [TWC Skills Enhancement Initiative Career Tools](#) website.

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 teleconference call to share knowledge, implementation strategies, and best practices. Providers, youth and young adults, parents, caregivers, as well as representatives from health care plans, hospital and university systems, and local community organizations are invited to participate. Upcoming calls are scheduled on the following dates:

Medical Home Learning Collaborative

Wednesday, January 13, 2021
10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Texas Title V Transition Learning Collaborative

Meeting planned for February 2021 (the exact date is to be determined).

For Medical Home and Transition to Adulthood Learning Collaborative registration details and more information about the program, please contact: Ivy Goldstein, State CSHCN Health Coordinator
ivy.goldstein@dshs.texas.gov.

Other News and Events

2021 Texas Mental Health Creative Arts Contest

The Texas Mental Health Creative Art Contest is an annual event hosted in collaboration with the Texas System of Care, The Texas Institute for Excellence in Mental Health at UT-Austin, and the Texas Health and Human Services Commission. The contest provides a platform for students and adults across the state to answer the prompt, "Why Does Mental Health Matter to You?" by submitting original creative content. There are three categories for participants to enter: Original Art, Writing, and Photography. Texans of all ages are encouraged to submit their pieces now through March 1, 2021 in their respective age groups, which include elementary, middle school, high school, and adult.

For more information, including past winners, rules, and how to submit your artwork, visit the [TxSOC website](#) or follow Texas System of Care on Twitter @txsystemofcare for more updates.

Texas Network of Youth Services' 38th Annual Conference on Services to Youth and Families

Save the date for the Texas Network of Youth Services' (TNOYS) 38th Annual Conference! This past June TNOYS convened over 500 professionals and youth at the annual conference, which took place virtually for the first time. Currently, TNOYS is busy preparing for this year's event, scheduled for June 8 - 11, 2021. The conference is tentatively scheduled to take place in-person in Houston, Texas. But, it may be moved to a virtual format in response to health concerns and the latest guidance from public health authorities. Interested in presenting at the conference? The Call for Presenters is now open! Learn more and submit a proposal on the [TNOYS 2021 annual conference](#) website.