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CRCG Events Calendar

July 21 – CRCG Bridge Call, 2-3 p.m. CDT

August 18 — CRCG Bridge Call, 2-3 p.m. CDT

September 15 — CRCG Bridge Call, 2-3 p.m. CDT

CRCG State Office Updates

2020 CRCG Regional Collaboration Summits Postponed

The State CRCG Office, along with partner agencies, regret to announce the postponement of the 2020 CRCG Regional Collaboration Summits due to the ongoing threat posed by the Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19). The priority of the State CRCG Office is the health, safety, and well-being of participants and staff. The planning team is working to identify future dates and will share updates when available.

The State CRCG Office appreciates everyone's enthusiasm and interest in attending the events and would like to thank the local CRCG leaders, chief probation officers, and planning team for their time and effort in planning the summits.

37th Annual Texas Network of Youth Services Conference

Sara Underwood, State CRCG Coordinator, had an exciting opportunity to speak on a panel with other state agency representatives to provide policy and programmatic updates at the 37th Annual Texas Network of Youth Services (TNOYS) virtual conference that was held on June 25-26, 2020. The conference provided a valuable learning experience for youth and the professionals who work with them across a variety of systems, including juvenile justice, education, child welfare, and more. Some of

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.

[System of Care Series Part One: Cultural and Linguistic Responsiveness](#)

[System of Care Series Part Two: Family-driven/Family-guided](#)

[System of Care Series Part Three: Trauma Informed Care](#)

[System of Care Series Part Four: Youth-driven/Youth-guided](#)

[Guidelines for Hosting a Virtual CRCG Meeting](#)

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

the topics covered during the conference included building resilience, developing cultural competency, and understanding trauma-informed care.

2020 Children's Mental Health Awareness Day

Children's Mental Health Awareness Day went digital this year. The interactive website features speakers, testimonials, performances, activities, games, and resources that promote the importance of mental health for children of all ages and their families. Also included this year was the Texas Mental Health Creative Arts Contest winners and an interactive wall where visitors can post messages about why children's mental health matters to them. The State CRCG Office participated in the exhibitor fair and shared information and resources about CRCGs; including how they benefit children, youth, and families across the state. Learn more by visiting the [2020 Digital Event Children's Mental Health Awareness Day ATX website](#).

CRCG Site Visits

State CRCG Office Site Visits

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the State CRCG Office is unable to provide in-person CRCG site visits but is available to participate in virtual CRCG meetings. The situation continues to be monitored and in-person site visits will resume as soon as it is safe. The State CRCG Office is also available to provide remote training and technical assistance support to all CRCGs and can be reached at CRCG@hhsc.state.tx.us.

Spotlight on CRCGs

The State CRCG Office acknowledges efforts and successes of different CRCGs in this spotlight

section. To share success stories for upcoming newsletters, send an email to CRCG@hhsc.state.tx.us.

Thank You to all CRCGs for Continuing to Provide Support to your Communities!

The State CRCG Office would like to thank CRCGs for finding creative ways to continue to meet the community's needs during this unprecedented time. Your dedication does not go unnoticed. We have heard from several CRCGs that meetings and staffing are being hosted remotely via virtual technology and conference calls. We appreciate all that you do to support individuals and families in your area.

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. (CDT). Mark your calendars for the upcoming bridge calls and join other CRCGs for collaborative discussions! Find more information about bridge calls on the [CRCG Resources website](#).

- July 21, 2020, 2:00-3:00 p.m. CDT / 1:00-2:00 p.m. MDT
- Aug. 18, 2020, 2:00-3:00 p.m. CDT / 1:00-2:00 p.m. MDT
- Sep. 15, 2020, 2:00-3:00 p.m. CDT / 1:00-2:00 p.m. MDT

CRCG Webinar Series

The State CRCG Office offers webinars that cover resources, programs, and technical assistance to support CRCG efforts. Starting in July, the State CRCG Office will be partnering with Texas System of Care to host a new webinar series about working and engaging with youth. A notice will be sent to all CRCGs and a registration link will be posted on the [CRCG Resources website](#) when each webinar is scheduled. Recordings for past webinars are available on the [CRCG Resources website](#).

CRCG Partner Agency Updates

Health and Human Services Commission

Early Childhood Intervention Program

The Texas Health and Human Services Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) program serves children birth to 36 months with developmental delays or disabilities and their families. ECI is now providing children and their families services through telehealth.

Telehealth is the delivery of early intervention services using distance technology when the ECI provider, child and caregiver are not in the same physical location. Telehealth services can be provided when in-person visits pose a health risk, travel is difficult, or locations are difficult to access. By using videoconferencing technology, the ECI provider uses the coaching approach to show parents how to help their child learn new skills, answer questions, and watch the parents practice the activities. Telehealth works well with the ECI coaching approach and helps parents improve their skills in fostering their child's communication by focusing the intervention on the caregiver-child interaction.

Research has shown therapies delivered through telehealth may be as effective as those delivered in person. The American Physical Therapy Association, American Occupational Therapy Association, and American Speech-Language-Hearing Association all support telehealth. Telehealth helps parents gain confidence in helping their child, because they are trying different "hands on" activities with their child.

Each ECI contractor may offer different services through telehealth. Check with your local agency to learn more about options available to families in your area. To find the local ECI program, go online to [ECI Program Search](#) or call the Health and Human Services Commission Ombudsman office at 877-787-8999 (choose option 3).

Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs

The Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) has received funding from the federal government and made additional funds available to respond to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic to help keep Texans housed. Programs set to receive increased funding include:

- Comprehensive Energy Assistance Program, which is administered through an existing network of local Community Action Agencies and

designed to assist low-income households in meeting their immediate energy needs.

- Community Services Block Grant, which funds Community Action Agencies to support a broad range of services designed to eliminate poverty and foster self-sufficiency for households with income of up to 200 percent of the federal poverty level.
- Emergency Solutions Grant, which funds local agencies to support individuals with a household income of up to 50 percent of their Area Median Income who are experiencing homelessness or who are at risk of homelessness.
- HOME Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA) funds local organizations to provide rental subsidies, security deposits and utility deposits to individuals in their communities. In the coming weeks, TBRA funds will be made available through units of general local governments, public housing authorities, local mental health authorities, and nonprofits.

Please note that TDHCA does not provide direct assistance or accept applications, and not all TDHCA-funded programs are available in all parts of the state. TDHCA funds local organizations that may be able to provide assistance directly.

To find a list of providers in your area, visit the [TDHCA's "Help for Texans" webpage](#). This page will help locate contact information for providers in your area. Providers listed may be at funding capacity and may not be able to assist everyone. If a provider is not available, check with your local city or county about available assistance resources.

Department of State Health Services

Maternal and Child Health

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). [COVID-19 Resources for Families of CSHCN](#) have recently been added to the program's website.

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 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, July 15, 2020, 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. CDT
- Texas Title V Transition Workgroup, Wednesday, August 12, 2020, Noon – 1:30 p.m. CDT

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

Department of Family and Protective Services

Prevention and Early Intervention Program

Family and Youth Success Program

The Services to At-Risk Youth (STAR) Program has received a new name and is now the Family and Youth Success (FAYS) program. While the name has changed, the program continues to provide contracted prevention services for families and youth experiencing adversity that builds on the strengths of both caregivers and children to promote strong families and resilient youth. FAYS providers operate in every county in Texas. Visit the [FAYS program website](#) to find a program in your county.

Help for Parents, Hope for Kids Website

The Help for Parents, Hope for Kids website is a child abuse prevention website that is focused on providing helpful resources for parents and families including:

- [Family focused support and resources for COVID-19](#)
- Parenting tip sheets for children of all ages including:
 - ▶ [Keeping Children Safe Wherever You Go! – English version](#)
 - ▶ [Keeping Children Safe Where You Go! – Spanish version](#)
 - ▶ [Five Fast Tips to Use at Home with Your Kids and Loved Ones – English version](#)

- ▶ [Five Fast Tips to Use at Home with Your Kids and Loved Ones – Spanish version](#)
- Kids activity ideas and resources including:
 - ▶ Activity Book for Kids: This is a free resource, filled with educational activities and coloring pages geared towards children preschool age to first grade. [Download or order a copy.](#)

To learn more, visit the [Help for Parents, Hope for Kids website](#).

Texas Youth Helpline

The Texas Youth Helpline has expanded to support families. Children and parents can be connected with help via call, text or chat. Visit the [Texas Youth Helpline website](#) to chat online, call 800-989-6884, or send a text to 512-872-5777.

Join the PEI Community Newsletter

Prevention and Early Intervention offers weekly communications filled with resources for DFPS stakeholders, providers and community organizations.

To sign up for the newsletter, visit the [DFPS GovDelivery website](#).

Reporting Suspected Abuse, Neglect, or Exploitation

DFPS offers training and resources about reporting suspected abuse, neglect, or exploitation of a child or adult with a disability or ages 65 or older. This includes:

- [Training videos](#) to guide individuals about how to report abuse, neglect, or exploitation by phone or online.
- [Guide to Reporting Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation](#)

To report abuse, call 800-252-5400 or visit the [Texas Abuse Hotline website](#).

Other News and Events

Conferences

Texas School Safety Conference

July 16, 2020

Virtual Conference

The Texas School Safety Conference is a free one-day virtual conference that will cover topics addressing school safety such as recovery planning,

reopening of schools and safety protocols, and mental health wellness for students and staff.

To learn more, visit the [Texas School Safety Conference website](#).

2020 Southwest First Episode Psychosis Conference

August 3-5, 2020

Virtual Conference

The 2020 Southwest First Episode Psychosis (FEP) Conference, hosted by the South Southwest Mental Health Technology Transfer Center, will provide invaluable professional development for mental health professionals serving individuals with early psychosis or clinical high risk for psychosis. The three-day agenda will include nationally-recognized plenary speakers and opportunities to learn from and network with similar providers from across the region. The conference is free for all participants and CEUs will be available.

To register for the conference, visit the [FEP Conference website](#).

20th Annual Partners in Prevention Conference

October 20-22, 2020

Houston, TX

The Texas Department of Family and Protective Services' Prevention and Early Intervention program is hosting the 20th Annual Partners in Prevent (PIP) Conference. The PIP Conference is the largest annual gathering of prevention and early intervention professionals in Texas. The conference attracts parents, educators, youth service providers, civic leaders, policy advocates, researchers and others with a professional interest in child and family well-being, youth development and juvenile justice.

The 2020 theme - Intersections: 20 Years of Navigating Families to Success - honors the journeys of prevention and early intervention professionals across Texas as they seek out and connect with resources in their communities to reduce child abuse, enhance school readiness, and improve the social-emotional health of children and families. Attendees will return to their communities with new connections, directions and road maps to success for the children, youth and families they serve.

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