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### *Events Calendar*

- Jan. 23** — Webinar: Empowering CRCGs in 2019 and Beyond, 1-2 p.m. CT
- Feb. 19** — CRCG Bridge Call, 2-3 p.m. CT
- Mar. 19** — CRCG Bridge Call, 2-3 p.m. CT
- Apr. 16** — CRCG Bridge Call, 2-3 p.m. CT

## **CRCG State Office Updates**

### **New Strategic Plan for State Office**

The State CRCG Office will begin implementation of a new strategic plan in January 2019. The plan focuses on providing extensive technical assistance and support to CRCGs across Texas, teaching communities about using CRCGs as a resource, and raising awareness of CRCG efforts among community and state leaders. CRCGs and Texas agency partners will learn about the plan during upcoming meetings and conference calls.

### **CRCG Data System Launched**

The new CRCG data system was launched in November 2018. The system allows CRCGs across Texas to report information about the number of people they support, meetings held, partners involved, and types of referrals made. The system has a feature that creates reports and will aid CRCGs and the State Office in promoting their accomplishments, and identifying gaps and barriers. At the beginning of 2019, 195 counties had access to the data system.

### **Legislative Report in Development**

The biennial CRCG Legislative Report is being prepared by the State CRCG Office and will be released in the spring to the Texas Legislature, Governor's Office, and state agency partners. The final report will be posted on the [Texas CRCG website](#).

## **ABC Summit and SYF Conference**

In November 2018, the Advancing Behavioral Health Collaborations for Student Success (ABC) Summit and Strengthening Youth and Families (SYF) Conference were held in Galveston. The State CRCG Office team and many CRCGs joined other Texas organizations to learn about ways to collaborate across behavioral health and support youth and their families. During the ABC Summit, the State CRCG Office hosted a panel that highlighted school and CRCG partnerships in Galveston, Navarro, and Travis counties. The State CRCG Office also conducted a half-day session with CRCGs that focused on the System of Care (SOC) framework, coordinated group brainstorming about SOC values, and guided CRCGs through individual action planning to implement SOC values in their communities. The SYF Conference featured dozens of sessions related to positive youth development, including a presentation about how CRCGs and systems of care work together to improve systems, and ensure individuals and families have access to effective services and supports. The State CRCG Office teamed with the Texas System of Care initiative at HHSC, the Texas Institute for Excellence in Mental Health at the University of Texas at Austin, and the conference planning groups to create the sessions. Thank you to all who contributed and participated.

## **CRCG Site Visits**

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The State CRCG Office plans to conduct more site visits during 2019 to learn what CRCGs are doing and take advantage of opportunities to deliver training and technical support. CRCGs are welcome to talk to the State Office about specific needs and best timing for visits by emailing [CRCG@hhsc.state.tx.us](mailto:CRCG@hhsc.state.tx.us) or calling 512-206-5255.

## **Legislative Updates**

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The Texas 86th Legislature, Regular Session opened in January. Learn about new bills that pertain to CRCGs and track them through the [Texas Legislature Online](#) website.

## 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.

[CRCG Data Collection System Training](#)

[CRCG State Office and Legislative Updates](#)

[Mental Health in Focus](#)

[Youth in Placement](#)

[CRCGs & TDCJ/TCOOMMI](#)

[CRCGs and Permanency Planning](#)

[Trauma among Refugee and Vulnerable Populations](#)

## Sharing Is Caring

Please feel free to share our newsletter with your colleagues or anyone who 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](mailto:CRCG@hsc.state.tx.us)

**512-206-5255**

## Spotlight on CRCGs

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In this section, the State CRCG Office acknowledges efforts and successes of different CRCGs. CRCGs can share success stories for coming newsletters by emailing [CRCG@hsc.state.tx.us](mailto:CRCG@hsc.state.tx.us).

### Youth Involvement is a Winner

The Harris County CRCG involves older youth in their own staffing meetings. This allows youth to express their needs and participate in resource planning. The CRCG coordinator reports this method has had a positive impact on their CRCG and the individuals and families they serve.

### Thinking Outside the Box to Link Services

Community Partners for Children (CPC), the Travis County CRCG, was able to be creative and flexible with their residency criteria to meet a person's needs. A youth at risk of homelessness in another state had an opportunity to be placed with a relative in Austin. The youth was being discharged from a long-term, out-of-state residential treatment center and was not able to return to their adoptive home that was also out-of-state. CPC quickly began coordinating by phone, email, and fax with the adoptive parent and treatment center. A little more than a week after first learning of the situation, CPC completed a session with the relative to establish eligibility for all recommended services and supports allowing for the youth to be discharged from treatment to the care of their relative in Austin.

# Upcoming Events

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## **CRCG Bridge Call Series**

The State CRCG Office offers a monthly bridge call series for local CRCG chairs and members to share ideas, discuss challenges, and network. Bridge calls are held every third Tuesday of the month at 2:00 p.m. (CT). Each call will include State CRCG Office updates and topics relevant to CRCGs. To participate, find the call schedule and access information below. Mark your calendars for the upcoming bridge calls and join for collaborative discussions!

*Dial-in number: 877-820-7831, Access code: 175651#*

- February 19, 2:00-3:00 p.m. CT / 1:00-2:00 p.m. MT
- March 19, 2:00-3:00 p.m. CT / 1:00-2:00 p.m. MT
- April 16, 2:00-3:00 p.m. CT / 1:00-2:00 p.m. MT

## **CRCG Webinar Series**

The State CRCG Office offers webinars that cover resources, programs, and technical assistance to support CRCG efforts. A notice will be sent to all CRCGs and will be posted on the [CRCG website Resource page](#) when each webinar is scheduled. See the schedule of upcoming webinars below and follow the links to register.

[Empowering CRCGs in 2019 and Beyond,](#)

January 23, 1:00-2:00 p.m. CT/12:00-1:00 p.m. MT

Previous webinar recordings are available through the [links in the "Resources" sidebar on page 2](#).

## **CRCG Conference Opportunities**

### **2019 CRCG and System of Care Conference**

The State CRCG Office and Texas System of Care are partnering to host a joint conference in July 2019. The conference will explore examples of effective implementation of systems of care and community resource coordination groups, and how these collaborations work together to identify and address gaps and barriers, improve systems, and ensure individuals and families have access to an effective continuum of care. A save the date notice with conference details will be distributed soon. If you have ideas for topics or presenters, please send them to the [CRCG Email Box](#).

# CRCG Partner Agency Updates

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## HHSC Early Childhood Intervention (ECI)

ECI is a statewide program with Texas Health and Human Services for families with children from birth to 36 months of age with developmental delays, disabilities, or certain [medical diagnoses](#) that may impact development. For example, ECI program offices can help families find respite services to allow them to take breaks to care for themselves. The [Take Time Texas website](#) provides many tools and a searchable provider database to access help and support for all families.

If a family is receiving ECI services, their local program may have funds to help pay for respite services. ECI families should ask their service coordinator about the following items:

- availability of ECI respite funds
- levels of funding based on level of care needed
- process for prioritizing requests
- wait list policy
- annual hourly limit
- annual total dollar limit

Respite can help strengthen the whole family. It can decrease stress and help increase a family's health and well-being. In addition to giving parents or primary caregivers a rest, it may help free up time to spend with other members of the family.

To find a local ECI program, visit the [ECI program search page](#) or call the Health and Human Services Office of Ombudsman at 877-787-8999.

## HHSC Office of Mental Health Coordination (OMHC)

### 2019 Mental Health Awareness Creative Arts Contest

In recognition of May as Mental Health Awareness Month, the Texas HHSC, in partnership with Texas System of Care and the Texas Institute for Excellence in Mental Health at the University of Texas at Austin, presents the [2019 Mental Health Awareness Creative Arts Contest](#) for both children and adults.

This annual event is designed to shine a light on the often-taboo topic of mental illness and further the effort to reduce the stigma associated with mental illness. Winning submissions will be displayed online, in public galleries, and at the Texas State Capitol. Submissions are due on March 11, 2019, at 5:00 p.m. CT. More [information is available online](#) and [questions may be emailed to HHSC](#).

## **School Mental Health Resource Guide**

Unified Services for All Children, a collaborative group of state agencies, released the second edition of its school-mental health resource, "[Advancing Behavior Health Collaborations to Ensure Student Success: School-Mental Health Resource Guide](#)." The guide provides information and resources to individuals working with school-age youth who have behavioral health needs. For more information, visit [mentalhealthtx.org](http://mentalhealthtx.org).

## **Mental Health First Aid Training**

HHSC, local mental health authorities, and many agencies and organizations across Texas provide training in the Mental Health First Aid curriculum. Find courses online at the [Mental Health First Aid website](#). Employees of public schools and higher learning institutions can receive the training free through their [local mental health authority](#) or other training centers when "Texas Schools Initiative" is marked for the course. Additionally, public school teachers receive eight hours of continuing education credit by using code 902219.

## **Suicide Prevention Resources**

HHSC provides suicide prevention resources and collaborates with other state and national agencies and organizations to provide evidence-based information and tools applicable to a range of populations. Visit the [HHSC Suicide Prevention webpage](#) for more information.

## **DSHS Children with Special Health Care Needs Systems Development Group**

The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) [Children with Special Health Care Needs \(CSHCN\) Systems Development Group](#) works to strengthen community-based services to improve the systems serving children and youth with special health care needs and their families. The group's work is driven by priorities identified through a comprehensive needs assessment process within the following areas of focus:

- 1) Transition from pediatric to adult health care
- 2) Medical home
- 3) Community inclusion

The group is excited to announce the launch of a transition planning tool developed in partnership with Bridging Apps/Easter Seals of Greater Houston. The tool addresses all aspects of transition including health care, postsecondary education, vocational training, legal needs, financial

management, employment, social and recreational activities, and independent living. Learn more on the [TexasYouth2Adult website](#).

The CSHCN Systems Development Group leads two statewide learning collaboratives that meet quarterly by webinar. Upcoming webinar and registration information is listed below.

[Medical Home Learning Collaborative](#)

Wednesday, January 30, 10:00-11:30 a.m. CT

[Register](#) online

[Transition to Adulthood Learning Collaborative](#)

Date and registration information coming soon

Contact: Ivy Goldstein, State CSHCN Health Coordinator  
[Ivy.Goldstein@dshs.state.tx.us](mailto:Ivy.Goldstein@dshs.state.tx.us), 512-776-3406

## **Texas Workforce Commission (TWC)**

Vocational rehabilitation (VR) services help people with disabilities prepare for, find or maintain employment, or prepare for educational opportunities, as well as helping employers recruit, retain and accommodate employees with disabilities. Senate Bill 208, 84th Texas Legislature, Regular Session (2015), transferred the administration of VR services from the Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services to TWC, effective September 1, 2016. In order to accommodate this transfer and integration, the Texas Administrative Code must be updated to incorporate the administrative rules related to these programs into TWC rules.

The proposed rule changes are available in the [Texas Register \(January 4, 2019, Volume 44, Number 1\)](#). Public comments must be received or postmarked no later than February 4, 2019.

Comments on the proposed rule may be submitted using one of the following methods:

- By email to [TWCPolicyComments@twc.state.tx.us](mailto:TWCPolicyComments@twc.state.tx.us)
- By fax to 512-475-3577
- By mail addressed as follows:  
TWC Policy Comments, Workforce Policy and Service Delivery  
Attn. Workforce Editing  
101 East 15th Street, Room 459T  
Austin, TX 78778