

2024 Texas Council Conference
June 17-19, 2024
Grand Hyatt San Antonio – San Antonio, TX

Preliminary Agenda

*Information in preliminary agenda subject to change. Updated May 17, 2024.
 Continuing Education credit for multiple disciplines will be provided for this event.*

Monday, June 17, 2024

Registration	7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Consortia/Workgroup Meetings	8:30 a.m. – Noon
Consortia Meetings	
• IDD	
• HR	
• MS/Nursing Committee	
Workgroup Meetings	
• Executive Admins (BL-SIG)	
• Communications Special Interest Group (Comm-SIG)	
• Mental Health First Aid (MHFA)	
Lunch (ON YOUR OWN)	Noon – 1:00 p.m.
Opening Session	1:00 – 3:00 p.m.
Welcome and Featured Speaker: Dr. Geeta Nayyar	
Concurrent Sessions	3:30 – 5:00 p.m.
AI: The Future is Now for Community Centers	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Felicia Jeffery, Chief Executive Officer, Gulf Coast Center • Shena Ureste, Incoming Chief Executive Officer, Texana Center • Carlos Ortiz, Chief Financial Officer, Emergence Health Network • Moderator: Jolene Rasmussen, Chief Strategy Officer, Texas Council of Community Centers 	
Data-Driven Approaches to Engaging the Medically Disenfranchised	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shawna Scully, DO, COL (ret.), Chief Medical Officer, Emergence Health Network 	
Grants and Development Tips, Tools, and Lessons Learned	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Laura Kender, MEd, Chief Program Officer, MHMR of Tarrant County • Caleb Hill, MPA, Director of Integrated Health, Burke • Ron Kimbell, MSW, LCSW-S, Chief Strategy Officer, Heart of Texas Behavioral Health Network • Twanda Wadlington, DrPH, MPH, Senior Director of Development, MHMR of Tarrant County 	
Increasing Access and Quality of Reentry Peer Recovery Support Services in Texas	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jose Flores, LCDC, Recovery Support Services Lead, HHSC – Texas Targeted Opioid Response • Richard Hamner, LMSW, RSPS, LCDC-I, Program Manager of Recovery Support Services, Be Well Texas 	
NCQA Accreditation: Preparation, Collaboration, and Lessons Learned	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sarah Kuykendall, MS, IDD Practice Manager, Integral Care 	

Concurrent Sessions		3:30 – 5:00 p.m.
Office-based Opioid Treatment Program		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Brian Clark, MS, Senior Physician Assistant, The Center for Health Care Services</i> 		
School-based Crisis Intervention Teams: A Multidisciplinary Response for Children and Adolescents		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Bridgette Leyva, LMSW, Director of Crisis Intervention Teams, Emergence Health Network</i> • <i>Alyssa Flores, LPC-A, MS, MA, CIT School-based Program Manager, Emergence Health Network</i> 		
Trustee Roles and Responsibilities		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Pamela Beach, JD, MBA, BSN, General Counsel, Texas Council Risk Management Fund</i> 		
Wanna Be the CEO? How to Develop Future Leaders Within a Culture of Inclusivity		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Kelli Laos, MSW, LCSW, Chief Operating Officer, Metrocare</i> • <i>Ariana Rosado, MS, SPHR, SHRM-SCP, Chief Human Resources Officer, Metrocare</i> • <i>Tameka Cass, MS, Chief Development and Diversity Officer, Metrocare</i> • <i>Tate Ringer, MA, Chief Strategy Officer, Metrocare</i> 		

Evening Events		
Board and Trustees Reception		6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Executive Directors Dinner		7:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Tuesday, June 18, 2024

Registration		7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Exhibit Hall Open		7:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Poster Sessions		8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Bridging the Gap Between Behavioral Health and Primary Healthcare		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Gloria Ramirez, MA, PSS, LPC, NCC, Clinician, PermianCare – Bridges Behavioral Health</i> • <i>Janice Begley, Supervisor, PermianCare – Bridges Behavioral Health</i> 		
Community Center Profile Through the Years		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Tim Sneed, PhD, LPC, Healthcare Analytics Specialist, Texas Council of Community Centers</i> 		
Empowering Employment: Building Careers through Strategic Excellence		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>LaToya Kindred-Ray, MEd, Program Manager Employment Services, Integral Care</i> • <i>Ryan McDaniel, MA, LPC-S, Practice Manager, Integral Care</i> 		
Incorporating Volunteer Opportunities for Individuals Within the ISS Program		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Colleen Wentworth, Program Manager – ISS, The Center for Health Care Services</i> 		
Integrating Trauma-Informed Care in Specialty Courts		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Nancy Tamburo-Trevino, MA, MSW, LPC-S, LCSW, LCDC, Clinical Operations Manager, The Center for Health Care Services</i> • <i>Daniel Benavides, MS, LPC, Clinic Administrator – Outpatient Services, The Center for Health Care Services</i> 		
Mastering Career Fairs: How to Secure 25 Offers in One Day		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>J'Neen Addison, MBA, Recruiting Manager, Metrocare</i> 		
Peer Professional Role in Crisis Intervention		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Octavia Pitts, CPS, Peer Support Specialist, The Center for Health Care Services</i> • <i>Lacey Martin, Peer Support Specialist, The Center for Health Care Services</i> 		
Project for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness		

Poster Sessions	8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Tina Cisneros, LPC, Program Director of Community and Crisis Response, The Center for Health Care Services</i> 	
Upskill Dallas: Creatively Reaching Our Future ABA Workforce	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Justin Kimble, MA, BCBA, LBA, BCBA – Clinical Supervisor and Upskill Leadership, Metrocare</i> 	
General Session	8:30 – 10:00 a.m.
<p>Frank M. Adams Awards Featured Speaker: Dr. Michael Gillette</p>	
General Session	10:30 a.m. – Noon
<p>State and National Perspectives Panel</p>	
Lunch (Exhibit Hall)	Noon – 1:30 p.m.
Concurrent Sessions	1:30 – 3:00 p.m.
Care Coordination in a Fragmented World	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Greg Basham, Director of Care Coordination, MHMR of Tarrant County</i> • <i>Grace White, MSN, RN, APHN-BC, Chief of Quality Services/Chief of Nursing, MHMR of Tarrant County</i> 	
Insight into the Texas Political Landscape	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Carl Isett, Former State Representative, District 84</i> • <i>Harvey Kronberg, Editor and Publisher, Quorum Report</i> • <i>Ross Ramsey, Consultant, Co-Founder of Texas Tribune</i> • <i>Moderator: Lee Johnson, MPA, Chief Executive Officer, Texas Council of Community Centers</i> 	
Making Employment Programs that Work for Everyone	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Gina Pena, IDD Services Director, Nueces Center for MHID</i> • <i>Johnite Ryen De Jesus, Guiding Point Program Manager, Nueces Center for MHID</i> • <i>Melinda Garza, Advance Employment Services Manager, Nueces Center for MHID</i> • <i>Adrian Alvear, Apprenticeship Program and CIE Supervisor, Nueces Center for MHID</i> 	
Navigating the Intersection of Lived Experience and Professionalism	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Felicia Mason-Edwards, MA, CFP, Peer Support and Recovery Behavioral Health Services Manager, HHSC</i> • <i>Janet Paleo, Director of Government Relations for Recovery-based Services, Texas Council of Community Centers</i> 	
Nurturing Compassion: Investing in Trauma Informed Care by Community Engagement	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Andrew Ahles, MA, LMFT-S, ICGC-I, Clinical Training Manager, Metrocare</i> • <i>Tate Ringer, Chief Strategy Officer, Metrocare</i> 	
Overview of Mental Health Litigation: The Civil Commitment Process	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Daniela Chisholm, JD, Senior Trial Attorney, El Paso County Attorney's Office</i> • <i>Roberto Kutcher-Diaz, MD, Psychiatry Resident, Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center El Paso</i> 	
Preventing Readmission Using Proactive Coordination between CMHCs and Hospitals	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Jasmine Brown, MS, LPC, Director of Outpatient Operations, Metrocare</i> • <i>Kristin Peterson, Director of Social Work, Parkland Hospital</i> 	
The Power of Mental Health First Aid Training: Exploring the Benefits of MHFA	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Tracy Baker, MHFA Outreach Coordinator, Spindletop Center</i> • <i>Denise Lucas, MA, LPC, MHFA Outreach Worker, Helen Farabee Centers</i> 	

Concurrent Sessions		1:30 – 3:00 p.m.
Who Are These BH PPL?		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Brandalyn Haggerty, MS, LPC, Behavioral Health Partnership Program Liaison, The Center for Health Care Services</i> • <i>Alex Robles, MS, LPC, Behavioral Health Partnership Program Liaison, MHMR Concho Valley</i> • <i>David Baker, MS, LPC-S, Behavioral Health Partnership Program Liaison, Heart of Texas Behavioral Health Network</i> • <i>Stephanie Duer, MA, LPC-S, Behavioral Health Partnership Program Liaison, Tri-County Behavioral Healthcare/Region 6 Education Service Center</i> • <i>Rocio Bickei, MA, Behavioral Health Partnership Program Liaison, Emergence Health Network</i> • <i>Jessica Siegfried, LPC, LMFT, Behavioral Health Partnership Program Liaison, Betty Hardwick Center</i> 		

Concurrent Sessions		3:30 – 5:00 p.m.
Be in the Know: Texas CCBHC Criterion Updates		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Sarah Melecki, MPAff, Director of Integrated Care Strategy, HHSC</i> • <i>Suzie Brady, MMT, MT-BC, Senior Integrated Care Specialist and Policy Lead, HHSC</i> • <i>Kenneth Placke, MSW, LCSW-S, Integrated Care Specialist and Data & Quality Lead, HHSC</i> 		
Beyond Silence: Confronting Suicidal and Homicidal Thoughts in the IDD Community		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Rhonda Russ, LPC-S, LSOTP, Chief of Crisis Intervention Teams, Emergence Health Network</i> • <i>Deborah Alvidrez, MA, Crisis Intervention Services Program Manager, Emergence Health Network</i> 		
Does Telehealth Really Tele-HELP?		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Celerina Cervantes, MPh, BSN, RN, Registered Nurse – Quality Management, Tropical Texas Behavioral Health</i> • <i>Carlos Alicea, MD, JD, MBA, Staff Psychiatrist and Medical Director, Tropical Texas Behavioral Health</i> • <i>Jose Ledezma, MD, Physician – Primary Care, Tropical Texas Behavioral Health</i> 		
Implementing Mental Health First Aid in a Crisis Intervention Team World		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Alison Boudreaux, MA, QMHP-CS, Manager of MHFA Education and Outreach, Gulf Coast Center</i> • <i>Shari Forward, Crisis Services Trainer, Gulf Coast Center</i> 		
Integrating and Developing a Healthy Peer Workforce Within CCBHCs		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Erinn Graber, MA, LPC, LCDC, PSS, Peer Services Manager, The Center for Health Care Services</i> 		
Lessons Learned from the Boys in the Bunkhouse: Safeguarding the Rights of Workers with IDD		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Robert Canino, JD, Regional Attorney, Dallas District Office, U.S. EEOC</i> 		
MDRT Teams: Answering the Call to Community Crisis		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Jason Miller, DO, Medical Director of Crisis Services, The Center for Health Care Services</i> 		
The Call with Rights-based Treatment		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Janet Paleo, Director of Government Relations for Recovery-based Services, Texas Council of Community Centers</i> 		
The Opioid Epidemic: How We Got Here and How We Can Help		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Denise Lucas, MA, LPC, MHFA Outreach Worker, Helen Farabee Centers</i> 		

Evening Event	
Center Party	6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, June 19, 2024

Registration	7:30 a.m. – Noon
Staff Continental Breakfast	7:30 – 8:30 a.m.
Concurrent Sessions	8:30 – 10:00 a.m.
Innovating Service Delivery through Telemedicine and Partnerships	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elda Hudson, MSN, RN, Director of Care Coordination, Metrocare • John Burruss, MD, Chief Executive Officer, Metrocare 	
Monitoring Caseloads for Early Crisis Intervention in Individuals with IDD and MH	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bridgette Leyva, LMSW, Director of Crisis Intervention Teams, Emergence Health Network • Deborah Alvidrez, MA, Crisis Intervention Services Program Manager, Emergence Health Network 	
Overcoming Tragedy: Community Centers' Role in Family Resiliency	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Danielle Sneed, MA, LPC, Deputy Clinical Officer, LifePath Systems • Chandra Wiginton, LPC-A, NCC, Program Director – Family Resiliency Center of the Permian Basin, PermiaCare • Amanda Groller, MEd, LPC, Director of Innovative and Special Projects, Gulf Coast Center • Veronica Sanchez, MA, LPC-S, Executive Director, Camino Real Community Services • Rene Hurtado, Chief of Staff, Emergence Health Network 	
RetentionRx: Prescriptions to Reduce Turnover and Foster a Thriving Workplace	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elizabeth Ackley, Senior Director of Learning and Development, The Center for Health Care Services • Lauren Rodriguez-Thompson, RN, Occupational Health and Wellness RN, The Center for Health Care Services 	
Saving Lives through Mental Health Education and Crisis Intervention	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jonathan Bohannon, LCDC-I, Director of Military and Veteran Services, Emergence Health Network 	
Staff Resiliency: Being Trauma Informed Without Being Trauma Avoidant	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elizabeth Stasey, MA, LPC-S, LCDC, Clinical Director of Behavioral Health, MHMR of Tarrant County • Martha Sanderford-Smith, MSN, RN, MA, Director of Nursing, MHMR of Tarrant County 	
State Budget and Legislative Update	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lee Johnson, MPA, Chief Executive Officer, Texas Council of Community Centers • Danette Castle, MPA, MEd, Senior Advisor, Texas Council of Community Centers • Eva DeLuna Castro, Senior Budget Analyst, Office of State Representative Trey Martinez Fischer 	
State Hospital Step Down: A Transitional Approach to Serve the Whole Person	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dalia Villa, LMSW, Director of Crisis Services, Bluebonnet Trails Community Services • Briana Porter, LMSW, Program Manager – State Hospital Step Down, Bluebonnet Trails Community Services • Sandra Morris, MSN, RN, Director of Residential Nursing, Bluebonnet Trails Community Services • Christopher Donatto, MHPS, PSS, Director of Peer and Veteran Services, Bluebonnet Trails Community Services 	
General Session	10:30 a.m. - Noon
Featured Speaker: Kirsten Farrell and Send-Off	

Peer Post-Conference Training 12:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Featured Speaker: Cherene Caraco