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- Exhibitors & Sponsors
- Continuing Education
- Schedule at a Glance
- 10 Pre-Conference Activities
- 11 General Sessions
- Special Events
- Poster Sessions
- 18 Concurrent Sessions
 - Monday, June 17, 3:30-5:00 p.m.
 - Tuesday, June 18, 1:30-3:00 p.m.
 - Tuesday, June 18, 3:30-5:00 p.m.
 - Wednesday, June 19, 8:30-10:00 a.m.
- 38 Frank M. Adams Awards
- Committees
- See You Next Year!

BACK Hotel Map

WELCOME

WELCOME TO THE 2024 TEXAS COUNCIL CONFERENCE!



As Chair of the Texas
Council Board of Directors
and board member of
the MHMR Authority of
Brazos Valley, one of the
experiences I most value
is the opportunity to learn
more about our system and
use that knowledge in my
roles as a public servant

and advocate for our system of care and the people we serve.

Each year, the Texas Council Conference provides us with the opportunity to learn, reconnect, and explore new ideas for enhancing our work. For the next three days, we will choose from among thirty-six sessions that are sure to enlighten, invigorate, and provide us with a lot to think about and implement back home.

The conference agenda is outstanding. The general sessions each day are guaranteed to inspire and offer insights on how to evolve in a rapidly transforming healthcare landscape.

Our opening keynote speaker and leading technology expert, Dr. Geeta Nayyar, will address the future of healthcare and illuminate both challenges and opportunities that face us as new technologies emerge.

We will begin the second day, by celebrating our Frank M. Adams Award winners and our Legislative Champion honoree, Representative Four Price, and considering the ethics of artificial intelligence with Dr. Michael Gillette.

Our last day will close out with The Goodman Center's Kirsten Farrell, who will call on us to recognize and use the power of our voices in telling the real-life stories that change the hearts and minds of decision makers.

We have an excellent array of breakout sessions to look forward to, where speakers from inside and outside our system of care will deliver educational content tailored specifically for our audience. And this year, I'm excited to use the conference's first-ever smartphone app!

We are extraordinarily thankful for our gracious 2024 conference host, The Center for Health Care Services. Their welcoming hospitality, eager volunteers, and unwavering support of the educational goals for our conference all add up to making this event one to remember.

Be sure to visit our generous sponsors and exhibitors throughout the day on Tuesday. They are here to share how their tools and products strengthen our public mission, and we appreciate their enthusiastic support for our event! When you do stop by their booths, please take the time to say, "Thank you!"

In closing, we wholeheartedly welcome you to the 37th Annual Texas Council Conference in the historic and beautiful San Antonio, Texas. May you enjoy our conference and find time to have fun with colleagues and friends on the Riverwalk!

Sincerely,

Sheriff Gerald Yezak, Chair Board of Directors,

Texas Council of Community Centers

2024 EXHIBITORS & SPONSORS

- » Amergis
- » Butler Human Services Furniture
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- » Integrated Prescription Management
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CONTINUING EDUCATION

CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS

The following types of continuing education credit are offered:

- » Social Workers
- » LPCs
- » LMFTs
- » Continuing Medical Education (CME)
- » Continuing Nursing Education (CNE)

Requirements for all types of continuing education credit:

 Check in to a qualifying session via the Texas Council Conference app.

- » Professional Development (PD) for Psychologists
- » Continuing Legal Education (CLE)
- » Licensed Chemical Dependency Counselors (LCDCs)
- » Peers, Family Partners, and Peer Supervisors (MHPS/RSPS/PSS/CFP)
- 2. Complete the session evaluation provided by the app after the session ends.

Additional requirements may be necessary. Please review the information for your credit type provided below to be sure you complete all requirements to successfully earn credit.

Unless noted otherwise below, certificates will be sent digitally via Eventur, the Texas Council Conference app partner.

CREDITS FOR SOCIAL WORK/LPC/LMFT

Social Work, Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) and Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (LMFT) continuing education credits are offered for all educational sessions.

CREDITS FOR CME/CNE/PD FOR PSYCHOLOGISTS/MEDICAL ETHICS/PSYCHOLOGY ETHICS

Additional Requirements:

1. Visit the CEU desk to pick up a credit request form.

2. Complete and return the form at the end of the conference.

This activity has been planned and implemented in accordance with the accreditation requirements and policies of the Texas Medical Association (TMA) through the joint providership of The Texas Department of State Health Services, Continuing Education Service and Texas Council of Community Centers. The Texas Department of State Health Services, Continuing Education Service is accredited by TMA to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

The Texas Department of State Health Services, Continuing Education Service designates this live activity for a maximum of 7.00 AMA PRA Category 1 CreditsTM. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

This course has been designated by The Texas Department of State Health Services, Continuing Education Service for 1.00 credits of education in medical ethics and/or professional responsibility.

Nursing Continuing Professional Development:

The Texas Department of State Health Services, Continuing Education Service is accredited as a provider of Nursing Continuing Professional Development by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation.

The Texas Department of State Health Services, Continuing Education Service has awarded 7.00 contact hours of Nursing Continuing Professional Development.

Licensed Psychologists:

The Texas Department of State Health Services, Continuing Education Service is approved as a provider of professional development hours for licensed psychologists, per the Texas Administrative Code Rule §463.35 (f)(1). The Texas Department of State Health Services, Continuing Education Service has awarded 7.00 professional development hours. This course has been designated by The Texas Department of State Health Services, Continuing Education Service for 1.00 hours in professional ethics.

Certificate of Attendance:

The Texas Department of State Health Services, Continuing Education Service has designated 7.00 hours for attendance.



CREDITS FOR CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION (CLE)

This course has been approved for Minimum Continuing Legal Education credit by the State Bar of Texas Committee on MCLE in the amount of 6.00 credit hours, of which 0.0 credit hours will apply to legal ethics/professional responsibility credit.

The following sessions are approved for 1.5 CLE hours each:

- » Trustee Roles and Responsibilities, Monday, June 17, 2024 from 3:30 - 5:00 p.m.
- » Insight into the Texas Political Landscape, Tuesday, June 18, 2024 from 1:30 3:00 p.m.
- » Overview of Mental Health Litigation: The Civil Commitment Process, Tuesday, June 18, 2024 from 1:30 3:00 p.m.
- » Lessons from the Boys in the Bunkhouse: Safeguarding the Rights of Workers with IDD, Tuesday, June 18, 2024, 3:30 - 5:00 p.m.
- » State Budget and Legislative Update, Wednesday, June 19, 2024 from 8:30 - 10:00 a.m.

CREDITS FOR CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION (CPE)

The following sessions have been approved for 1.8 hours each of non-technical Continuing Professional Education (CPE) for Accountants. No prerequisites required.

» State and National Perspectives Panel, Tuesday, June 18, 2024, 10:30 a.m. - Noon (1.8 hours) » All 90-minute breakout sessions (1.8 hours each)

Certificates will be distributed by the credit provider after the conference.

CREDITS FOR LICENSED CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY COUNSELORS (LCDCS)

The following sessions have been approved for 1.5 CEUs each for LCDCs:

- » Increasing Access and Quality of Reentry Peer Recovery Support Services in Texas, Monday, June 17, 2024 from 3:30 - 5:00 p.m.
- » Office-Based Opioid Treatment Program, Monday, June 17, 2024 from 3:30 - 5:00 p.m.
- » Be in the Know: Texas CCBHC Criteria Updates, Tuesday, June 18, 2024 from 3:30 - 5:00 p.m.
- » The Opioid Epidemic: How We Got Here and How We Can Help, Tuesday, June 18, 2024 from 3:30 5:00 p.m.
- » Staff Resiliency: Being Trauma Informed Without Being Trauma Avoidant, Wednesday, June 19, 2024 from 8:30 - 10:00 a.m.
- » The Call with Rights-Based Treatment, Wednesday, June 19, 2024 from 8:30 10:00 a.m.

CREDITS FOR PEERS, FAMILY PARTNERS, AND PEER SUPERVISORS [MHPS/RSPS/PSS/CFP]

The following sessions have been approved for CEUs for MHPS/RSPS/PSS/CFP:

- » Increasing Access and Quality of Reentry Peer Recovery Support Services in Texas, Monday, June 17, 2024 from 3:30 - 5:00 p.m.
- » Be in the Know: Texas CCBHC Criteria Updates, Tuesday, June 18, 2024 from 3:30 - 5:00 p.m.
- » Integrating and Developing a Healthy Peer Workforce Within CCBHCs, Tuesday, June 18, 2024 from 3:30 5:00 p.m.
- Navigating the Intersection of Lived Experience and Professionalism, Tuesday, June 18, 2024 from 3:30 - 5:00 p.m.

- » The Opioid Epidemic: How We Got Here and How We Can Help, Tuesday, June 18, 2024 from 3:30 5:00 p.m.
- » Staff Resiliency: Being Trauma Informed Without Being Trauma Avoidant, Wednesday, June 19, 2024 from 8:30 - 10:00 a.m.
- » The Call with Rights-Based Treatment, Wednesday, June 19, 2024 from 8:30 - 10:00 a.m.

Additionally, Texas Administrative Code allows individuals to also receive credit from any training approved for continuing education for a mental health or substance use disorder professional if the training is also relevant to the skills required of, or services provided by, a peer specialist.

See the CEU Desk to request more information.

SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

DAY 1, MONDAY, JUNE 17, 2024

All meeting rooms are on the 4th floor except where noted

TIME	ACTIVITIES		
7:30 a.m 5:00 p.m.	Registration (Breakfast - On Your Own) Texas Ballroom Foyer		
8:30 a.m 12:00 p.m.	Pre-Conference Meetings		
	Consortia Meetings	Workshop Meetings	
	 Human Resources Room: Travis A/B, 3rd Floor IDD Room: Travis C/D, 3rd Floor MS/Nursing Committee Room: Seguin 	 Executive Admins (BL-SIG) Room: Crockett A/B Communications Special Interest Group (Comm-SIG) Room: Crockett C/D Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) Room: Texas D 	
12:00 p.m 1:00 p.m.	Lunch - On your own	Lunch - On your own	
1:00 p.m 3:00 p.m.	Opening Session - Welcome Texas Featured Speaker: Dr. Geeta Nayyar	E/F	
3:00 p.m 3:30 p.m.	Break Texas Ballroom Foyer		
3:30 p.m 5:00 p.m.	Concurrent Sessions Al: The Future is Now for Community Centers Room: Texas D Data-Driven Approaches to Engaging Medically Disenfranchised Populations (CME, CNE, Psych PD) Room: Crockett C/D Grants and Development Tips, Tools, and Lessons Learned Room: Travis A/B, 3rd Floor Increasing Access and Quality of Reentry Peer Recovery Support Services in Texas (LCDC, MHPS/RSPS/PSS/CFP) Room: Travis C/D, 3rd Floor NCQA Accreditation: Preparation, Collaboration, and Lessons Learned Room: Republic A Office-based Opioid Treatment Program (CME, CNE, Psych PD, LCDC) Room: Republic B/C School-based Crisis Intervention Teams: A Multidisciplinary Response for Children and Adolescents Room: Seguin Trustee Roles and Responsibilities (CLE) Room: Crockett A/B Wanna Be the CEO? How to Develop Future Leaders Within a Culture of Inclusivity Room: Presidio B/C, 3rd Floor		
6:00 p.m 7:30 p.m.	Board & Trustees Reception Presidi	io A/B/C, 3rd Floor	
7:30 p.m 9:00 p.m.	Executive Directors Dinner Chart H	louse, Tower of the Americas	



DAY 2, TUESDAY, JUNE 18, 2024
All meeting rooms are on the 4th floor except where noted

TIME	ACTIVITIES
7:30 a.m 5:00 p.m.	Registration Texas Ballroom Foyer
7:30 a.m 8:30 a.m.	Continental Breakfast (Exhibit Hall) Texas A/B/C
7:30 a.m 3:30 p.m.	Exhibit Hall Open Texas A/B/C
8:00 a.m 5:00 p.m.	Poster Sessions Texas Ballroom Foyer
	Bridging the Gap Between Behavioral Health and Primary Healthcare
	Community Center Profile Through the Years
	Empowering Employment: Building Careers through Strategic Excellence
	• Incorporating Volunteer Opportunities for Individuals Within the ISS Program
	Integrating Trauma-Informed Care in Specialty Courts
	Mastering Career Fairs: How to Secure 25 Offers in One Day
	Peer Professional Role in Crisis Intervention
	Project for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness
	Upskill Dallas: Creatively Reaching Our Future ABA Workforce
	General Session Texas E/F
8:30 a.m 10:00 a.m.	Frank M. Adams Awards & Legislative Champion Award Featured Speaker: Dr. Michael Gillette (CME/Medical Ethics, CNE, Psych PD/Psych Ethics)
10:00 a.m 10:30 a.m.	Break (Exhibit Hall) Texas A/B/C
10:30 a.m 12:00 p.m.	General Session Texas E/F State and National Perspectives Panel

SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

DAY 2, TUESDAY, JUNE 18, 2024 [CONT.]

All meeting rooms are on the 4th floor except where noted

TIME	ACTIVITIES
12:00 p.m 1:30 p.m.	Lunch (Exhibit Hall) Texas A/B/C
1:30 p.m 3:00 p.m.	 Concurrent Sessions Care Coordination in a Fragmented World (CNE) Room: Travis A/B, 3rd Floor Insight into the Texas Political Landscape (CLE) Room: Texas D Making Employment Programs that Work for Everyone Room: Crockett A/B Nurturing Compassion: Investing in Trauma Informed Care by Community Engagement Room: Republic B/C Overview of Mental Health Litigation: The Civil Commitment Process (CME, CNE, CLE) Room: Crockett C/D Peer Support Gone Wild: Pitfalls, Lessons Learned, and Tips from Messing it Up! Room: Travis C/D, 3rd Floor Preventing Readmission Using Proactive Coordination between CMHCs and Hospitals (CNE, Psych PD) Room: Presidio B/C, 3rd Floor The Power of Mental Health First Aid Training: Exploring the Benefits of MHFA Room: Republic A Who Are These BH PPL? Room: Seguin
3:00 p.m 3:30 p.m.	Break (Exhibit Hall) Texas A/B/C
3:30 p.m 5:00 p.m.	Concurrent Sessions Be in the Know: Texas CCBHC Criteria Updates (LCDC, MHPS/RSPS/PSS/CFP) Room: Travis C/D, 3rd Floor Beyond Silence: Confronting Suicidal and Homicidal Thoughts in the IDD Community Room: Crockett C/D Does Telehealth Really Tele-HELP? (CME, CNE) Room: Crockett A/B Implementing Mental Health First Aid in a Crisis Intervention Team World Room: Republic A Integrating and Developing a Healthy Peer Workforce Within CCBHCs (MHPS/RSPS/PSS/CFP) Room: Presidio B/C, 3rd Floor Lessons from the Boys in the Bunkhouse: Safeguarding the Rights of Workers with IDD (CLE) Room: Texas D MDRT Teams: Answering the Call to Community Crisis (CME, CNE, Psych PD) Room: Republic B/C Navigating the Intersection of Lived Experience and Professionalism (MHPS/RSPS/PSS/CFP) Room: Travis A/B, 3rd Floor The Opioid Epidemic: How We Got Here and How We Can Help (CNE, Psych PD, LCDC, MHPS/RSPS/PSS/CFP) Room: Seguin
6:00 p.m 7:30 p.m.	Center Reception Texas E/F



DAY 3, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19, 2024
All meeting rooms are on the 4th floor except where noted

TIME	ACTIVITIES
7:30 a.m 12:00 p.m.	Registration Texas Ballroom Foyer
7:30 a.m 8:30 a.m.	Continental Breakfast Texas Ballroom Foyer
8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	 Concurrent Sessions Innovating Service Delivery through Telemedicine and Partnerships (CME, CNE) Room: Presidio B/C, 3rd Floor Monitoring Caseloads for Early Crisis Intervention in Individuals with IDD and MH Room: Crockett C/D Overcoming Tragedy: Community Centers' Role in Family Resiliency Room: Seguin RetentionRx: Prescriptions to Reduce Turnover and Foster a Thriving Workplace Room: Republic B/C Saving Lives through Mental Health Education and Crisis Intervention Room: Republic A Staff Resiliency: Being Trauma Informed Without Being Trauma Avoidant (CNE, LCDC, MHPS/RSPS/PSS/CFP) Room: Travis A/B, 3rd Floor State Budget and Legislative Update (CLE) Room: Texas D State Hospital Step Down: A Transitional Approach to Serve the Whole Person (CNE, Psych PD) Room: Crockett A/B The Call with Rights-Based Treatment (LCDC, MHPS/RSPS/PSS/CFP) Room: Travis C/D, 3rd Floor
10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	Break Texas Ballroom Foyer
10:30 a.m 12:00 p.m.	General Session Texas E/F Featured Speaker: Kirsten Farrell and Send-Off
12:30 p.m 4:30 p.m.	Peer Post-Conference Training Texas D Featured Speaker: Cherene Caraco

PRE-CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES

MONDAY, JUNE 17, 2024

CONSORTIA MEETINGS

8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

- » Human Resources (HR) Consortium Room: Travis A/B, 3rd Floor
- » Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) Consortium Room: Travis C/D, 3rd Floor
- » Medical Services (MS) Consortium and Nursing Committee Room: Seguin

CLOSED WORKGROUP MEETINGS

8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

- » Executive Administrators/Board Liaison Special Interest Group (BL-SIG) Room: Crockett A/B
- » Communications Special Interest Group (Comm-SIG) Room: Crockett C/D

PRE-CONFERENCE SESSIONS

8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) Session

Room: Texas D

This presentation will provide MHFA updates on state and national levels from the National Council for Mental Wellbeing and Texas Council.

- » Tramaine El-Amin, MA, Vice President, Mental Health First Aid USA, National Council for Mental Wellbeing
- » Janicanne Shane, Director of Client Success, Mental Health First Aid USA, National Council for Mental Wellbeing



MONDAY, JUNE 17, 2024 | 1:00 - 3:00 P.M.

BEXAR COUNTY SHERIFF'S HONOR GUARD | National Anthem by Deputy Andrea Guadiano



WELCOME: BEXAR COUNTY SHERIFF JAVIER SALAZAR

Sheriff Javier Salazar was sworn into office on January 1, 2017 as the 34th Sheriff of Bexar County. He is a Bexar County native, received his Bachelor's Degree from Wayland Baptist University, and holds a Master Peace Officer License from Texas Commission on Law Enforcement. Prior to his election, Sheriff Salazar served with the San Antonio Police Department (SAPD) for 23 years. He joined SAPD at the age of 21 and worked in various departments at rising ranks, from patrolman,

to Executive Protection Detail, to Director of Communications and Director of the Department's Integrity Unit.

During his tenure with the Bexar County Sheriff's Office, Sheriff Salazar has created several units, including the Adult Detention Mental Health Unit and Contraband Abatement Team. He has also created numerous units in support of advancing community engagement and safety, a top priority in his administration.



SHERIFF GERALD YEZAK Chair, Board of Directors, Texas Council of Community Centers



JELYNNE LeBLANC JAMISON Chief Executive Officer, The Center for Health Care Services



LEE JOHNSON Chief Executive Officer, Texas Council of Community Centers



DR. GEETA NAYYAR

Dr. Geeta Nayyar, MD, MBA, is a globally recognized Chief Medical Officer, technologist, and bestselling author who helps leaders leverage a human approach to innovation, including rapid advances in AI, to achieve better health and business outcomes. A widely sought-after speaker and author of the Wall Street Journal and USA Today bestseller, Dead Wrong: Diagnosing and Treating Healthcare's Misinformation Illness, Dr. G currently serves on the board of the American

Telemedicine Association and as an advisor to the American Medical Association. Dr. Nayyar's keynote will address the future of healthcare.

TUESDAY, JUNE 18, 2024 | 8:30 - 10:00 A.M.



WELCOME: MAYOR RON NIRENBERG

Ron Nirenberg is the first San Antonio Mayor of Asian Pacific Islander descent. His mother is Filipino and his paternal grandparents were immigrants from Eastern Europe who passed through Ellis Island.

Through his personal experiences, Mayor Nirenberg developed a core commitment to civic participation and the universal values of liberty, justice, and equal opportunity for every person.

First elected in 2017, Mayor Nirenberg was re-elected to a fourth term on May 6, 2023. Under his leadership as mayor, the city has adopted an equity framework in budgeting to reduce poverty, improve public health, and overcome historical socioeconomic inequality. This forward-looking approach drives the mayor's vision of a compassionate community with a globally competitive economy.



JELYNNE
LeBLANC JAMISON
Chief Executive Officer,
The Center for Health
Care Services



LEE JOHNSON Chief Executive Officer, Texas Council of Community Centers

GENERAL SESSIONS: TUESDAY, JUNE 18, 2024 | 8:30 A.M. – 10:00 A.M.



FRANK M. ADAMS AWARD CEREMONY

This award honors individuals and organizations who best exemplify the late Frank M. Adams' spirit of caring through volunteerism on behalf of persons with serious mental illness, substance use disorders and intellectual disabilities.

SHERIFF GERALD YEZAK



Chair, Board of Directors, Texas Council of Community Centers

THE HONORABLE BONNIE HELLUMS



Member, Board of Directors, The Harris Center for MH and IDD



REPRESENTATIVE FOUR PRICE HONORED AS LEGISLATIVE CHAMPION

The Texas Council will honor Representative Four Price of Amarillo as a Legislative Champion for his remarkable courage, outstanding leadership, and relentless advocacy for improving the lives of Texans with mental health conditions and intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD).

Throughout his seven terms in office, Representative Price authored important bills into law with a clear focus on expanding access to quality and affordable services for the vulnerable populations

served by Community Centers of Texas. He has authored and sponsored numerous bills that increased funding, enhanced coordination, and promoted innovation in service delivery. Representative Price has been unwavering as a champion for the rights and dignity of people with mental illness and IDD, fighting against stigma and discrimination every step of the way.

Please join the Texas Council for the presentation of this important award to a courageous and compassionate champion of the people of Texas.



DR. MICHAEL GILLETTE

Dr. Michael Gillette is an ethics expert who has presented numerous keynotes and workshops nationally and internationally for over 25 years. Additionally, he engages with dozens of healthcare organizations and other agencies to provide ethics case consultations and policy work. His energetic and interactive style captivates his audiences and helps them think critically about ethical decisions in their work and beyond.

Ethics, AI, and Healthcare: Real Issues or Artificial?

CE Credits Available: CME, Medical Ethics, CNE, PD for Psychologists, Psychology Ethics

This interactive presentation on the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in healthcare will define AI, catalog ethical issues that are likely to emerge with the use of AI in healthcare, discuss the ethical principles and processes that can be used to resolve those ethical issues, and make specific recommendations about management of AI in a variety of healthcare environments.

- 1. Identify key ethical issues that relate to the use of AI in a variety of healthcare settings.
- 2. Explain the ethical concepts and contexts that can be referenced to resolve relevant ethical challenges.
- 3. Apply an understanding of applied ethical principles to situations that emerge in the healthcare setting regarding Al use.

GENERAL SESSIONS: TUESDAY, JUNE 18, 2024 | 10:30 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.

SONJA GAINES RECOGNIZED FOR OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS TO MENTAL HEALTH AND INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY SERVICES



Texas Council congratulates Sonja Gaines for her stellar career as a local, state, and nationally recognized leader in mental health, substance addiction, and intellectual disability services.

As a visionary leader at the Texas Health and Human Services Commission, Sonja's expertise and advocacy played a pivotal role in shaping policies and initiatives, not just in Texas, but across the nation. Her collaborative approach and unwavering support throughout the years for the public

mission of Community Centers has left an indelible mark on the fabric of our communities and will continue to inspire and guide future generations of leaders in our system.

Please join us in extending best wishes for a well-deserved, albeit brief, retirement. We look forward to the next chapter of Sonja's unfinished journey.

STATE AND NATIONAL PERSPECTIVES PANEL

State and national leaders will share their perspectives on opportunities and challenges in the changing healthcare environment and the health and human service system in Texas.

JONAH CUNNINGHAM



President and CEO, National Association of County Behavioral Health and Developmental Disability Directors (NACBHDD)

HALEY TURNER



Deputy Executive Commissioner, Community Services, Texas HHSC

TRINA ITA



Deputy Executive Commissioner, Behavioral Health Services, Texas HHSC

LEE JOHNSON



Chief Executive Officer, Texas Council of Community Centers

GENERAL SESSIONS: WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19, 2024 | 10:30 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.



KIRSTEN FARRELL

Kirsten Farrell is the director of the Goodman Center, a training and consulting organization that helps good causes reach more people with more impact. In her one-hour keynote, "Change the Story, Change the World," Kirsten Farrell will explain why storytelling remains the single most powerful communication tool we possess and will offer specific ways Texas's 39 Community Centers can use stories to advance our mission.

SPECIAL EVENTS

MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID: FIND THE HIDDEN KOALAS SCAVENGER HUNT



The Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) Workgroup is hosting a scavenger hunt to find the hidden koalas! ALGEE the Koala is the mascot of MHFA. Discreetly hidden ALGEEs are scattered throughout the conference venue, waiting to be discovered. Search high and low - in plants, on railings, under chairs, or in elevator corners. Snap a picture of your finds, then decide: take the koala home, or re-hide them for others to enjoy!

Share your discoveries with the hashtag #AlgeeTCC24 to spread the joy. This game is all about fostering a sense of community and delight among conference participants.

HAPPY HUNTING!

MONDAY, JUNE 17, 2024

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS AND TRUSTEES RECEPTION (Invitation only)

6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. | Room: Presidio

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS DINNER (Invitation only)

7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. | Location: The Chart House, Tower of the Americas (Shuttle will be provided)

TUESDAY, JUNE 18, 2024

POSTER SESSIONS

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. | Room: Texas Ballroom Foyer

Browse posters or strike up a discussion with a colleague in this open educational setting. Presenters will come and go but the posters will be available all day!

Full poster session descriptions are available on Page 16.

CENTER RECEPTION

6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. | Room: Texas E/F

The Center Reception is casual dress and open attendance. Drop in for some snacks and refreshments! Door prizes are generously provided by our Host Center, The Center for Health Care Services.



WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19, 2024

PEER POST-CONFERENCE TRAINING

12:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. | Room: Texas D

Four hours of continuing education credit for Peers, Family Partners, and Supervisors of Peers and Family Partners will be offered for this session. Lunch will be provided.

I See You! Deconstructing Labels and Understanding Behavior

Labels within behavioral health systems are common. Diagnostic labeling is required for billing and service provision. Unfortunately, negative labels are also used to characterize a person's behavior. Words such as "non-compliant," "service resistant," "difficult," and "unmotivated" are frequently used to describe someone's unwillingness or inability to engage in services. Words such as "psycho," "borderline," and "frequent flyer" are used in some settings to disparage a person's pain by describing their behavior as pathological.

It has been said, "To call someone lazy, unmotivated, or non-compliant is to admit that we don't understand them." With this idea in mind, this session will guide participants to identify and deconstruct common labels used in behavioral health settings. By understanding the behavior of others and ourselves, we can create connection without judgment and resist defaulting to labeling one another.

Learning Objectives:

- » Identify the factors that influence and shape a person's behavior.
- » Analyze common labels used in behavioral health settings to describe a person's behavior.
- » Adjust practice as a peer support professional based on understanding of a person's needs rather than interpretation of assigned labels.

Speaker:

» Cherene Caraco, QMHP, QDDP, CPSS, Founder, Chief Global Strategist and Executive Officer, Promise Resource Network

Texas Council of Community Centers, Inc. | Provider No. 2074-21

Provider approved by the TCB Standards Committee, Provider No. 2074-21, four (4) hours general. Expires 06/24.

Complaints about provider or workshop content may be directed to the TCB Standards Committee, PO Box 342343, Lakeway, TX 78734, Fax Number (888) 506-8123.

TUESDAY, JUNE 18, 2024 8:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M. | TEXAS BALLROOM FOYER

BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND PRIMARY HEALTHCARE

Historically, behavioral healthcare and physical healthcare have been separated, but integrating these types of care helps providers treat the whole person and create better outcomes. This poster will describe key advantages and challenges PermiaCare identified for integrating each type of care, as well as steps the Center took to improve integration.

- » Gloria Ramirez, MA, PSS, LPC, NCC, Clinician, PermiaCare Bridges Behavioral Health
- » Janice Begley, Supervisor, PermiaCare Bridges Behavioral Health

COMMUNITY CENTER PROFILE THROUGH THE YEARS

Texas Council of Community Centers collects an annual Community Center Profile survey that gathers statewide data and program highlights. This poster will visualize the growth and development of the Community Center system as described by the profile data over 10 years. Come learn how this important data impacts the work of Texas Council on behalf of Centers!

» Tim Sneed, PhD, LPC, Healthcare Analytics Specialist, Texas Council of Community Centers

EMPOWERING EMPLOYMENT: BUILDING CAREERS THROUGH STRATEGIC EXCELLENCE

Since 2018, Integral Care's supported employment program has excelled, assisting 668 individuals in securing employment and fostering relationships with more than 200 local employers. Key strategies include robust agency investments in staffing, training, and leadership, strict adherence to the Individual Placement and Support model with regular reviews, and nurturing crucial partnerships with state representatives, vocational services, and employers. This poster will illustrate how Integral Care's unwavering commitment to these initiatives not only helps people find jobs, but also fosters enduring and fulfilling careers.

- » LaToya Kindred-Ray, MEd, Program Manager Employment Services, Integral Care
- » Ryan McDaniel, MA, LPC-S, Practice Manager, Integral Care

INCORPORATING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES FOR INDIVIDUALS WITHIN THE ISS PROGRAM

A lack of training, resources, and acceptance make competitive employment difficult for individuals with IDD. To overcome these challenges, The Center for Health Care Services implemented a robust community volunteering program to help each individual build the skills, stamina, and confidence to be successful in long-term, competitive employment. Visit this poster to learn how to find and develop relationships with appropriate local volunteer organizations, establishing long-term partnerships and fostering a community of inclusion.

» Colleen Wentworth, Program Manager - ISS, The Center for Health Care Services

INTEGRATING TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE IN SPECIALTY COURTS

The principles of trauma-informed care (TIC) can be implemented within specialty courts to help participants feel a greater sense of safety, trust, collaboration, empowerment, and cultural sensitivity. As a member of the drug court team, the clinician's role can assist the team with understanding and implementing trauma-informed services. While there is not a specific model to implement TIC within a specialty court setting, this poster will highlight examples of interventions emphasizing the pillars of trauma-informed care that can make practical adjustments within the court setting.

- » Nancy Tamburo-Trevino, MA, MSW, LPC-S, LCSW, LCDC, Clinical Operations Manager, The Center for Health Care Services
- » Daniel Benavides, MS, LPC, Clinic Administrator Outpatient Services, The Center for Health Care Services

MASTERING CAREER FAIRS: HOW TO SECURE 25 OFFERS IN ONE DAY

Are you facing challenges in the hiring process? In this poster, Metrocare will share best practices for hosting a successful career fair. Learn how to effectively engage your hiring managers, boost attendee participation, and reduce open positions by securing quality hires on the spot in one day! Arm yourself with the knowledge to transform your hiring strategies and leave the session equipped to make a meaningful impact on your recruitment efforts though hosting a Career Fair.

» J'Nean Addison, MBA, Recruiting Manager, Metrocare

PEER PROFESSIONAL ROLE IN CRISIS INTERVENTION

Research has shown that having a Peer Professional available during a mental health crisis creates positive patient outcomes. In a crisis response, the Peer Professional assists a consumer in identifying alternative behavioral responses and identifying their circles of support. This poster explores evidence-based research on the benefits of peer support during and post-crisis and identifies how peer support can prevent Emergency Detentions (ED) and involuntary hospitalization. The post-hospitalization response is examined through the lenses of peer support and lived experience.

- » Octavia Pitts, CPS, Peer Support Specialist, The Center for Health Care Services
- » Lacey Martin, Peer Support Specialist, The Center for Health Care Services

PROJECT FOR ASSISTANCE IN TRANSITION FROM HOMELESSNESS (PATH)

Bexar County's primary outreach programs dedicated to identifying and assisting homeless adults with serious mental illness or co-occurring disorders are operated by The Center for Health Care Services (PATH & ACT), City of San Antonio, Haven for Hope and other community service providers. These programs routinely meet to coordinate and discuss outreach activities to ensure the most extensive geographic coverage and avoid duplication of effort. These partners also inform close to home members of new or emerging participant needs detected during field outreach, providing the opportunity for the development of responsive programs.

» Tina Cisneros, LPC, Program Director of Community and Crisis Response, The Center for Health Care Services

UPSKILL DALLAS: CREATIVELY REACHING OUR FUTURE ABA WORKFORCE

There is a severe shortage of Registered Behavior Technicians (RBT) available to provide Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) intervention, despite the fact that ABA therapists' income can propel people out of poverty into a thriving, fulfilling career. Metrocare's Center for Children with Autism partnered with the City of Dallas to launch Upskill Dallas, an internship program for Dallas residents that provides the training necessary to take the RBT certification exam.

» Justin Kimble, MA, BCBA, LBA, BCBA - Clinical Supervisor and Upskill Leadership, Metrocare

CONCURRENT SESSIONS MONDAY, JUNE 17, 2024 | 3:30 - 5:00 P.M.

AI: THE FUTURE IS NOW FOR COMMUNITY CENTERS

Room: Texas D

Available CE Credits: LPC/LMFT/SW, CPE for Accountants

Artificial intelligence (AI) offers vast opportunities to improve client outcomes, reduce administrative burdens, and enhance population health, but the technology is advancing much faster than the laws and rules that govern its use. As a result, healthcare providers are obligated to develop policies and procedures that ensure responsible use of AI while applying existing principles and standards of care. In this panel discussion, participants will hear from three Community Centers currently implementing AI regarding their experiences and perspectives navigating this challenge.

Felicia Jeffery, MA, LPC, Chief Executive Officer, Gulf Coast Center

Shena Ureste, BBA, Chief Executive Officer, Texana Center

Carlos Ortiz, MBA, MAcc, Chief Financial Officer, Emergence Health Network

Moderator: Jolene Rasmussen, MS, Chief Strategy Officer, Texas Council of Community Centers

Learning Objectives:

» Compare and contrast approaches taken by three Centers to develop and implement responsible AI policies and procedures for a healthcare provider setting.

DATA-DRIVEN APPROACHES TO ENGAGING MEDICALLY DISENFRANCHISED POPULATIONS

Room: Crockett C/D

Available CE Credits: LPC/LMFT/SW, CME, CNE, PD for Psychologists, CPE for Accountants

Focusing on a border community LMHA's service for marginalized populations, this presentation will examine the pivotal role data can play in engaging clients and making decisions about complex needs. Emergence Health Network has taken data-driven approaches to improve safety for incarcerated clients with serious mental illness and target barriers to accessing mental health care for veterans. Emergence is now examining how to improve emergency care for individuals with IDD. The presentation outlines initial progress and plans for addressing the needs of individuals with IDD in local emergency rooms, emphasizing challenges in obtaining conclusive data and analytical approaches for future improvement efforts.

Shawna Scully, DO, COL (ret.), Chief Medical Officer, Emergence Health Network

- » Outline a data-driven approach to improve problem solving and service performance for medically disenfranchised members of a Local Mental Health Authority's patient population.
- » Describe how strategic partnerships with local academic institutions and regional entities can support data collection, analysis, and application of findings to improve access to mental health services and quality of care.



GRANTS AND DEVELOPMENT TIPS, TOOLS, AND LESSONS LEARNED

Room: Travis A/B, 3rd Floor

Available CE Credits: LPC/LMFT/SW, CPE for Accountants

When seeking grant or foundation funding, there are obstacles and high stakes. In the post-COVID era where grantees are subject to funding restrictions, changing priorities, and closure, the grind of grant-seeking encourages competition over scarce resources. This panel will examine the unique public and private grant-related challenges that Texas Community Centers face in their efforts to address gaps in services. Grant and fundraising professionals from a range of local service areas will discuss best practices for the grant cycle, the importance of collaboration, and how to strategically utilize non-traditional partners when applying for funds.

Twanda Wadlington, DrPH, MPH, Senior Director of Development, MHMR of Tarrant County

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

Learning Objectives:

- » Discuss the importance of collaboration to enhance the grant development process beyond the grant writer or grant writing team.
- » Outline best practices for the grant development cycle (i.e., pre-award planning, award implementation, post-award management).

INCREASING ACCESS AND QUALITY OF REENTRY PEER RECOVERY SUPPORT SERVICES IN TEXAS

Room: Travis C/D, 3rd Floor

Available CE Credits: LPC/LMFT/SW, CPE for Accountants, LCDC, MHPS/RSPS/PSS/CFP

This presentation will provide an overview of how the UT Health Science Center at San Antonio (Be Well, Texas) and HHSC (Texas Targeted Opioid Response) have collaborated to increase access to Reentry Peer Recovery Support Services for incarcerated individuals with a history of opioid and/or stimulant use.

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

- » Outline the history of collaboration between UT Health San Antonio and HHSC Texas Targeted Opioid Response.
- » Explain how Reentry Peer Specialists can support work with incarcerated populations.

NCQA ACCREDITATION: PREPARATION, COLLABORATION, AND LESSONS LEARNED

Room: Republic A

Available CE Credits: LPC/LMFT/SW, CPE for Accountants

Representatives from Integral Care, Texana Center, Lakes Regional Community Center, and MHMR of Tarrant County will participate in a panel presentation on the NCQA Accreditation process. Panelists will share valuable information about the accreditation process, including development of NCQA approved procedures; preparation for the lookback period and NCQA review; and post-accreditation considerations. Additionally, the panel discussion will highlight the importance of collaboration across Local IDD Authorities during each stage of the process to maximize efforts and ensure consistency. There will be time for Q&A.

Sarah Kuykendall, MS, IDD Practice Manager, Integral Care

Grace White, MSN, RN, APHN-BC, Chief of Quality Services/Chief of Nursing, MHMR of Tarrant County

Maribel Burgos, MPP, IDD Authority Practice Manager, Texana Center

Clara Daniel, MA, Director of Local IDD Authority Services, Lakes Regional Community Center

Learning Objectives:

- » Define NCQA and the accreditation process.
- » List strategies and important insights for navigating the preparation, survey, and post-accreditation stages.

OFFICE-BASED OPIOID TREATMENT (OBOT) PROGRAM

Room: Republic B/C

Available CE Credits: LPC/LMFT/SW, CME, CNE, PD for Psychologists, CPE for Accountants, LCDC

As the Local Mental Health Authority in Bexar County, The Center for Health Care Services (CHCS) is acutely aware of the overwhelming substance use challenges facing the community. Partnering with the University of Texas Health Science Center - San Antonio's BeWell Texas initiative, CHCS was awarded funding to provide office-based opioid treatment (OBOT) services, a type of outpatient treatment designed for individuals living with opioid use disorder. This presentation will discuss how to implement OBOT in treatment plans, support treatment through a multidisciplinary team, and monitor outcomes.

Brian Clark, MS, Senior Physician Assistant, The Center for Health Care Services

- » Explain how a multidisciplinary team enhances the provision of medication-assisted treatment (MAT) and office-based opioid treatment (OBOT).
- » Develop a treatment plan that effectively utilizes OBOT.
- » Describe how to monitor outcomes of OBOT.



SCHOOL-BASED CRISIS INTERVENTION TEAMS: A MULTIDISCIPLINARY RESPONSE FOR CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS

Room: Seguin

Available CE Credits: LPC/LMFT/SW, CPE for Accountants

In school year 2022-2023, Emergence Health Network launched the School-Based Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) initiative with local school districts in El Paso to provide crisis emergency response and intervention. The CIT program uses a multidisciplinary response to meet the needs of children and adolescents who are in crisis and students with disabilities, such as autism and IDD. This presentation will outline crisis intervention techniques to use with clients, families, teachers and staff during CIT encounters. Presenters will also discuss how to refer children and adolescents for treatment using the least restrictive disposition.

Bridgette Leyva, LMSW, Director of Crisis Intervention Teams, Emergence Health Network Alyssa Flores, LPC-A, MS, MA, CIT School-based Program Manager, Emergence Health Network

Learning Objectives:

- » List three crisis intervention skills to use during CIT encounters.
- » List three crisis intervention skills to use with children and adolescents with Autism/IDD during CIT calls.
- » Explain the difference between dispositions and referrals for treatment.

TRUSTEE ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Room: Crockett A/B

Available CE Credits: LPC/LMFT/SW, CLE, CPE for Accountants

This session will generally discuss the legal role that a Board of Trustees plays in the Texas Community Center system and the statutory responsibilities of Trustees as set out in Chapter 534 of the Texas Health and Safety Code. Time will be allotted for a Q&A session to cover practical issues of Board operations and Community Center governance.

Pamela Beach, JD, MBA, BSN, General Counsel, Texas Council Risk Management Fund

- » Define the legal role trustees play within the Texas Community Center system.
- » Identify the statutory responsibilities of trustees as set out in Chapter 534 of the Texas Health and Safety Code.
- » Explain how the requirements of the Texas Public Information Act and Open Meetings Act apply to Community Centers and trustees.

MONDAY, JUNE 17TH, 2024 | 3:30 - 5:00 P.M.

WANNA BE THE CEO? HOW TO DEVELOP FUTURE LEADERS WITHIN A CULTURE OF INCLUSIVITY

Room: Presidio B/C, 3rd Floor

Available CE Credits: LPC/LMFT/SW, CPE for Accountants

Why do some of the best clinicians make ineffective managers? What can prevent competent managers from evolving into successful leaders? And how do some types of organizational culture destroy the work of effective leaders? Metrocare spent years trying to answer these questions and, through trial and error, created a workforce development program that allows simultaneous focus on growing the leaders of tomorrow while building a strong agency culture. Participants will be able to take home Metrocare's model, which can be adapted to fit the needs of any Community Center and results in employee buy-in and sustained positive outcomes.

Kelli Laos, MSW, LCSW, Chief Operating Officer, Metrocare

Ariana Rosado, MS, SPHR, SHRM-SCP, Chief Human Resources Officer, Metrocare

Tameka Cass, MS, Chief Development and Diversity Officer, Metrocare

Tate Ringer, MA, Chief Strategy Officer, Metrocare

- » Outline a multi-tiered approach to management and leadership development while building an inclusive culture.
- » Identify the three stages of leadership development.
- » Describe how agency culture can be changed positively through small, consistent and effective measures

TUESDAY, JUNE 18TH | 1:30 - 3:00 P.M.

CARE COORDINATION IN A FRAGMENTED WORLD

Room: Travis A/B, 3rd Floor

Available CE Credits: LPC/LMFT/SW, CNE, CPE for Accountants

Care coordination is the linchpin of CCBHC, but executing and implementing care coordination activities can be challenging and removing barriers to addressing social determinants of health is key. Candid discussions on conflicting goals, collaboration challenges, communication gaps and revenue management are vital to the development and design of an organization's care coordination strategy. This presentation will discuss MHMR of Tarrant County's ongoing and evergreen care coordination strategy, including tracking and monitoring care coordination outcomes.

Greg Basham, Director of Care Coordination, MHMR of Tarrant County

Grace White, MSN, RN, APHN-BC, Chief of Quality Services/Chief of Nursing, MHMR of Tarrant County

Learning Objectives:

- » Identify the barriers to effective care coordination.
- » Outline implementation strategies to address social determinants through care coordination.
- » Track and monitor care coordination outcome measures.

INSIGHT INTO THE TEXAS POLITICAL LANDSCAPE

Room: Texas D

Available CE Credits: LPC/LMFT/SW, CLE, CPE for Accountants

Leaders from the most notable publications in Texas, Quorum Report and Texas Tribune, will share their views on the current and future political landscape in our state. Moderated by Lee Johnson, CEO of Texas Council, this session will feature Harvey Kronberg, Editor and Publisher of Quorum Report, Ross Ramsey, Co-Founder of Texas Tribune, and Hon. Carl Isett, former State Representative, District 84. If you want to know what's really happening and what's ahead in Texas politics, don't miss the chance to hear and interact with these experts!

Carl Isett, Former State Representative, District 84

Harvey Kronberg, Editor and Publisher, Quorum Report

Ross Ramsey, Consultant, Co-Founder of Texas Tribune

Moderator: Lee Johnson, MPA, Chief Executive Officer, Texas Council of Community Centers

Learning Objectives:

» Identify current trends in Texas politics impacting special populations, the Community Center system, and the delivery of health care.

TUESDAY, JUNE 18TH | 1:30 - 3:00 P.M.

MAKING EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS THAT WORK FOR EVERYONE

Room: Crockett A/B

Available CE Credits: LPC/LMFT/SW, CPE for Accountants

Services that help individuals with IDD obtain competitive, integrated employment are limited, underfunded, and have extensive waitlists. Many individuals with IDD are left unemployed or utilizing underfunded services at a financial loss to Centers. Nueces Center for MHID will discuss how their team uses various state, federal, and internal programs, including federal AbilityOne, state WorksWonders, and HHSC Apprenticeship programs, to provide an array of employment options to persons with IDD and generate significant revenue.

Gina Pena, IDD Services Director, Nueces Center for MHID

Johnite Ryen De Jesus, Guiding Point Program Manager, Nueces Center for MHID

Melinda Garza, Advance Employment Services Manager, Nueces Center for MHID

Adrian Alvear, Apprenticeship Program and CIE Supervisor, Nueces Center for MHID

Learning Objectives:

- » List non-HHSC employment programs for individuals with IDD that can generate significant revenue.
- » Outline best practices and lessons learned from the HHSC Apprenticeship program.
- » Describe how to combine these various opportunities with existing waiver programs to develop an array of employment options, from paid apprenticeships to full time employment with benefits.

NURTURING COMPASSION: INVESTING IN TRAUMA INFORMED CARE BY COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Room: Republic B/C

Available CE Credits: LPC/LMFT/SW, CPE for Accountants

Trauma-Informed Care (TIC) is a cornerstone of effective mental health treatment, yet the benefits are diluted if the broader community is not also invested in the mission. Community Centers can serve as experts within their broader communities by educating government entities, social service organizations, and individuals, to create access to TIC. This presentation will highlight Metrocare's efforts to broaden awareness of TIC and examine practical tools all Community Centers can use to reach outside of their own walls. Participants will be invited to share their own experiences and brainstorm ideas for engaging the community.

Andrew Ahles, MA, LMFT-S, ICGC-I, Clinical Training Manager, Metrocare

Tate Ringer, MA, Chief Strategy Officer, Metrocare

- » Describe trauma informed/compassionate communities and their importance in increasing societal mental well-being.
- » Examine how Community Centers can work to create stronger compassionate communities through strategic engagement with community partners.
- » Apply practical skills, useful tools and actionable plans (or ideas) to be a leader in building a compassionate community.



OVERVIEW OF MENTAL HEALTH LITIGATION: THE CIVIL COMMITMENT PROCESS

Room: Crockett C/D

Available CE Credits: LPC/LMFT/SW, CME, CNE, CLE, CPE for Accountants

This presentation will review the involuntary inpatient and outpatient civil commitment processes, from the first steps of determining when commitment proceedings may be appropriate to the possible outcomes and next steps. An overview will be provided of the legal mechanisms that can be utilized when an individual requires legal intervention for mental health services, including emergency detention, orders of protective custody and involuntary court commitment. The role of physicians and other medical professionals in the legal process will be highlighted.

Daniela Chisholm, JD, Senior Trial Attorney, El Paso County Attorney's Office Roberto Kutcher-Diaz, MD, Psychiatry Resident, Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center El Paso

Learning Objectives:

- » Summarize the legal process of an involuntary inpatient or outpatient mental health court commitment and explain when these legal interventions are implemented.
- » Utilize examples of successful community-based outpatient programs utilized for involuntary court commitments.
- » Describe the role of physicians and other medical professionals in the legal process of involuntary mental health court commitment.

PREVENTING READMISSION USING PROACTIVE COORDINATION BETWEEN CMHCS AND HOSPITALS

Room: Presidio B/C, 3rd Floor

Available CE Credits: LPC/LMFT/SW, CNE, PD for Psychologists, CPE for Accountants

Identifying and applying interventions to reduce readmission is imperative when treating mental illness. Toward that goal, CMHCs and hospital social workers each employ extensive trainings, strategies, and collaboration to reduce readmissions. This presentation will identify ways to not only improve the dialogue and communication between the two providers, but also develop a coordinated approach to ensuring an individual is viewed holistically when considering discharge. Discussion will include background on readmission statistics and strategies that Metrocare and Parkland have worked on together to coordinate optimal care during discharge.

Jasmine Brown, MS, LPC, Director of Outpatient Operations, Metrocare Kristin Peterson, MSSW, LCSW-S, Director of Social Work, Parkland Hospital

- » Explain methods of integrating collaborative approaches into service delivery processes that reduce mental health readmissions.
- » Describe proactive processes for local CMHCs and hospitals to identify mental health interventions in early stages of care.
- » Outline successful strategies for collaborating with community organizations to reduce mental health readmissions.

TUESDAY, JUNE 18TH | 1:30 - 3:00 P.M.

PEER SUPPORT GONE WILD: PITFALLS, LESSONS LEARNED, AND TIPS FROM MESSING IT UP!

Room: Travis C/D, 3rd Floor

Available CE Credits: LPC/LMFT/SW, CPE for Accountants

Learning from your mistakes is the hallmark of lived experience and practical wisdom. In this interactive presentation, internationally acclaimed CEO and consultant, Cherene Caraco, shares the wisdom she has gained and the thing "not to do" when including peer support in various settings and programs. According to Cherene, "Peer support makes you competitive, doing it well makes you relevant. Making mistakes makes you wiser, which basically makes me a genius!"

The presentation will include an overview of the current landscape of peer support on the national scene, common challenges across the country, the biggest mistakes made along the way to establishing a successful and highly respected peer-run non-profit, and the importance of (foolishness of not) tapping into the lived experience of the peer workforce to realize a competitive edge in health care. If you are a CEO, executive leader, or supervisor of peer supporters, this keynote is for you!

Cherene Caraco, QMHP, QDDP, CPSS, Founder, Chief Global Strategist and Executive Officer, Promise Resource Network

Learning Objectives:

» Apply insights to effectively integrate peer support services into various Community Center provider settings and programs.

THE POWER OF MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID TRAINING: EXPLORING THE BENEFITS OF MHFA

Room: Republic A

Available CE Credits: LPC/LMFT/SW, CPE for Accountants

Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) training can benefit Community Center clients and staff alike. Beyond promoting prevention and early intervention for mental health challenges, MHFA training can help reduce Center caseloads and crisis calls, as well as provide support for Center staff and prevent burnout. Participants will be equipped with information, statistics, and print materials to help colleagues at home understand the impact of MHFA training.

Tracy Baker, MHFA Outreach Coordinator, Spindletop Center

Denise Lucas, MA, LPC, MHFA Outreach Worker, Helen Farabee Centers

- » Outline the Mental Health First Aid training curriculum.
- » Identify benefits of Mental Health First Aid training to Community Center clients and staff.



WHO ARE THESE BH PPL?

Room: Seguin

Available CE Credits: LPC/LMFT/SW, CPE for Accountants

The continuing negative trend in adolescent mental health necessitates increased utilization of mental health services. The HB19 Behavioral Health Partnership Program (BHPP) is here to help build the bridge between LMHAs and local school districts! An LMHA's Behavioral Health Liaison can assist with building relationships, increasing parent engagement, and improving access to LMHA services for local schools. Participants will meet active BHPP Liaisons from several Community Centers and learn how the Liaisons help address student mental health needs.

Brandalyn Haggerty, MS, LPC, BHPP Liaison, The Center for Health Care Services

Alex Robles, MS, LPC, BHPP Liaison, MHMR Concho Valley

David Baker, MS, LPC-S, BHPP Liaison, Heart of Texas Behavioral Health Network

Stephanie Duer, MA, LPC-S, BHPP Liaison, Tri-County Behavioral Healthcare

Rocio Bickei, MA, BHPP Liaison, Emergence Health Network

Jessica Siegfried, MA, LPC, LMFT, BHPP Liaison, Betty Hardwick Center

- » Develop a successful partnership with the BHPP to increase services to school districts.
- » List ways of utilizing the BHPP Liaison to bridge communication and relationship gaps between LMHAs and schools.
- » Explain how the BHPP addresses barriers to access child and adolescent mental health services.



BE IN THE KNOW: TEXAS CCBHC CRITERIA UPDATES

Room: Travis C/D, 3rd Floor

Available CE Credits: LPC/LMFT/SW, CPE for Accountants, LCDC, MHPS/RSPS/PSS/CFP

SAMHSA updated Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) requirements in spring 2023. Texas HHSC then hosted stakeholder listening sessions in fall 2023 to obtain feedback before finalizing Texas CCBHC criteria. As a result, HHSC is implementing changes from current criteria, with some identified differences between the SAMHSA and Texas criteria. HHSC staff will review these changes, providing rationale for why decisions were made and offering guidance for implementation. There will be time for Q&A.

Sarah Melecki, MPAff, Director of Integrated Care Strategy, HHSC

Suzie Brady, MMT, MT-BC, Senior Integrated Care Specialist and Policy Lead, HHSC

Kenneth Placke, MSW, LCSW-S, Integrated Care Specialist and Data & Quality Lead, HHSC

Learning Objectives:

- » Identify the updated Texas CCBHC criteria.
- » Differentiate between updated Texas CCBHC criteria, previously used Texas CCBHC criteria, and SAMHSA CCBHC criteria.
- » Outline ways to implement updated Texas CCBHC criteria.

BEYOND SILENCE: CONFRONTING SUICIDAL AND HOMICIDAL THOUGHTS IN THE IDD COMMUNITY

Room: Crockett C/D

Available CE Credits: LPC/LMFT/SW, CPE for Accountants

Suicidal and homicidal ideations are spiking in individuals with IDD, requiring immediate attention. Often these crises are exacerbated by concurrent mental health disorders, which can complicate communication and intervention. An Emergence Health Network program responds by infusing mental health care into crisis management for IDD, transcending behavior analysis. Speakers will detail techniques for recognizing nonverbal distress signals and implementing mental health interventions. Participants will gain practical strategies to enhance safety and responsiveness in their care practices for those with IDD and mental health comorbidities.

Rhonda Russ, LPC-S, LCOTP, Chief of Crisis Intervention Teams, Emergence Health Network

Deborah Alvidrez, MA, Crisis Intervention Services Program Manager, Emergence Health Network

- » Identify the signs and symptoms of suicidal and homicidal ideations in individuals with IDD, distinguishing them from behavioral issues associated with IDD alone.
- » Integrate mental health interventions into crisis response strategies, utilizing tools such as the Columbia-Suicide Severity Rating Scale (C-SSRS) for monitoring to help tailor intervention plans.
- » Apply practical skills to create and implement proactive and responsive care approaches that address the dual challenges of IDD and mental health conditions.



DOES TELEHEALTH REALLY TELE-HELP?

Room: Crockett A/B

Available CE Credits: LPC/LMFT/SW, CME, CNE, CPE for Accountants

The use of telehealth and digital health technology have surged in the last several years, but does the expansion of telehealth effectively meet the needs of individuals with serious mental illness (SMI) and medical comorbidities and promote improved health outcomes? This presentation will examine outcomes and lessons learned through a technology-driven enhancement of integrated care for individuals with comorbid SMI and diabetes using remote patient monitoring devices and expanded use of telehealth within a CCBHC.

Celerina Cervantes, MPH, RN, CPHQ - Quality Management, Tropical Texas Behavioral Health
Carlos Alicea, MD, JD, MBA, Staff Psychiatrist and Medical Director, Tropical Texas Behavioral Health
Jose Ledezma, MD, Physician - Primary Care, Tropical Texas Behavioral Health

Learning Objectives:

- » Examine how use of telehealth technology in a population with comorbid serious mental illness (SMI) and diabetes impacts engagement and health outcomes.
- » Explore how expanded use of telehealth technology can be collaboratively leveraged in an integrated care setting.
- » Explain how to address internal and external barriers to implementation of telehealth technology within an integrated care setting.

IMPLEMENTING MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID IN A CRISIS INTERVENTION TEAM WORLD

Room: Republic A

Available CE Credits: LPC/LMFT/SW, CPE for Accountants

Educating law enforcement, EMS, firefighters, and other first responders in signs and symptoms of mental illness can play a critical role in connecting a person in a mental health crisis to services and resources. Many organizations have incorporated Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training to better prepare first responders for handling mental health challenges, but these agencies may hesitate to adopt Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) training, believing that it would be redundant. This presentation will review the similarities and differences between CIT and MHFA trainings to help coordinators better market the training to first responder agencies.

Alison Boudreaux, MA, QMHP-CS, Manager of MHFA Education and Outreach, Gulf Coast Center Shari Forward, Crisis Services Trainer, Gulf Coast Center

- » Compare and contrast attributes of the CIT and MHFA training programs.
- » Identify effective methods for marketing MHFA to public safety groups.



INTEGRATING AND DEVELOPING A HEALTHY PEER WORKFORCE WITHIN CCBHCS

Room: Presidio B/C, 3rd Floor

Available CE Credits: LPC/LMFT/SW, CPE, MHPS/RSPS/PSS/CFP

The Center for Health Care Services developed, and now sustains and supports, a large peer workforce integrated into 16 major programs. In the development of this comprehensive peer program, it was critical to clearly define peer roles and support factors such as peer advancement opportunities; organizational support of quality peer services; and in-house certification, supervision, hiring and retention. This presentation will outline these foundational program elements, as well as discuss ways to cultivate staff support among clinicians, medical professionals, and leadership to better recognize peers as an essential part of the treatment team.

Erinn Graber, MA, LPC, LCDC, PSS, Peer Services Manager, The Center for Health Care Services

Learning Objectives:

- » Define the role of the peer professional.
- » List foundational needs for developing a peer program.
- » Identify ways to create organizational support for peer integration.

LESSONS FROM THE BOYS IN THE BUNKHOUSE: SAFEGUARDING THE RIGHTS OF WORKERS WITH IDD

Room: Texas D

Available CE Credits: LPC/LMFT/SW, CLE, CPE for Accountants

In the 1970s, 32 Texas men with intellectual disabilities were moved from Texas State Supported Living Centers (then known as State Schools) to work in a turkey processing plant in Atalissa, lowa. Lacking basic freedoms and foundational supports, the men were housed together in a converted schoolhouse and worked in abusive, neglectful conditions for more than 30 years. Robert Canino, who prosecuted the case of EEOC v. Hill Country Farms, Inc., dba Henry's Turkey Services, will discuss how the EEOC used the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) to win compensatory and punitive damages for intentional discrimination of the plaintiffs. The outcome of the case could not undo the circumstances of these men who lived the majority of their adult lives in deplorable conditions, but it raised national awareness of similar situations across the country and illuminates the vital role Community Centers fulfill in protecting and monitoring the well-being of vulnerable populations.

Robert Canino, JD, Regional Attorney, Dallas District Office, U.S. EEOC

- » Identify elements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Civil Rights Act that provide protections in circumstances of abuse, neglect, and exploitation in an employment setting.
- » Discuss aspects of the landmark EEOC v. Hill Country Farms, Inc. verdict, including remedies available under the ADA, establishing punitive and compensatory damages, impact of arguing market wage rate, and role of statutory caps on the case and the individuals involved.
- » Explain the role Community Centers fulfill in protecting and monitoring the wellbeing of vulnerable populations.



MDRT TEAMS: ANSWERING THE CALL TO COMMUNITY CRISIS

Room: Republic B/C

Available CE Credits: LPC/LMFT/SW, CME, CNE, PD for Psychologists, CPE for Accountants

The Center for Health Care Services implemented a collaborative approach to mental health crisis response by creating Multidisciplinary Response Teams (MDRTs) that include mental health professionals, police officers, and paramedics. Responding to non-violent mental health related emergency calls, these teams reduce emergency detentions and provide much needed services to individuals in crisis in Bexar County. This presentation will outline operation of an MDRT program and the ways in which these collaborative teams can improve emergency mental health response.

Jason Miller, DO, Medical Director of Crisis Services, The Center for Health Care Services

Learning Objectives:

- » List the professionals needed for a multidisciplinary team responding to mental health-related emergency calls.
- » Explain why the collaborative approach to emergency mental health is more effective at reducing emergency detentions and providing crisis services.

NAVIGATING THE INTERSECTION OF LIVED EXPERIENCE AND PROFESSIONALISM

Room: Travis A/B, 3rd Floor

Available CE Credits: LPC/LMFT/SW, CPE for Accountants, MHPS/RSPS/PSS/CFP

Peer support, or leveraging lived experiences to aid others, is potent. However, harmonizing non-clinical Peer Professionals with clinical counterparts presents distinct hurdles that frequently lead to Peers exiting their roles. This session dissects these challenges, analyzing the nuanced equilibrium of lived experience and clinical professionalism. This presentation will equip Peer Supervisors and other Community Center staff with pragmatic tools to navigate and alleviate these issues, nurturing a supportive environment for both Peers and clinical professionals.

Felicia Mason-Edwards, MA, CFP, Peer Support and Recovery Behavioral Health Services Manager, HHSC

Janet Paleo, Director of Government Relations for Recovery-based Services, Texas Council of Community Centers

- » Identify key challenges that arise when integrating non-clinical Peer Professionals with clinically oriented professionals.
- » Explain how the identified challenges contribute to the departure of Peers from their roles.
- » Apply practical tools and strategies to address and mitigate the challenges associated with the intersection of lived experience and clinical professionalism in peer support.

TUESDAY, JUNE 18TH | 3:30 - 5:00 P.M.

THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC: HOW WE GOT HERE AND HOW WE CAN HELP

Room: Seguin

CE Credits Available: LPC/LMFT/SW, CNE, PD for Psychologists, CPE for Accountants,

LCDC, MHPS/RSPS/PSS/CFP

The opioid epidemic is the worst drug epidemic the United States has ever experienced. How did we get here? What can be done? This session will outline the three phases of the epidemic and explore the current phase of synthetic opioids, such as Fentanyl. It will discuss current state and federal actions being taken to address the problem and what Texans and Community Center staff can do to help.

Denise Lucas, MA, LPC, MHFA Outreach Worker, Helen Farabee Centers

- » Discuss the significance and consequences of the opioid epidemic.
- » Describe the 3 phases of the opioid epidemic.
- » Describe how LMHAs and care providers can leverage their roles to help address the opioid epidemic.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19TH | 8:30 - 10:00 A.M.

INNOVATING SERVICE DELIVERY THROUGH TELEMEDICINE AND PARTNERSHIPS

Room: Presidio B/C, 3rd Floor

CE Credits Available: LPC/LMFT/SW, CME, CNE, CPE for Accountants

One positive development in the post-COVID world is the increased acceptance of the use of technology, such as telemedicine, to bring services to the community. By leveraging telemedicine and strategic partnerships, Metrocare has removed barriers and made its service array available to partners by co-locating. Co-location provides a unique opportunity for enhanced collaboration and continuity of care for individuals who are mutually served by trusted partners. This presentation will share Metrocare's approach to co-locating services and provide guidelines on how other Community Centers can implement a similar approach.

Elda Hudson, MSN, RN, Director of Care Coordination, Metrocare John Burruss, MD, Chief Executive Officer, Metrocare

Learning Objectives:

- » Define service co-location and its benefits to Community Center partners and the community.
- » Identify key partners in the community for co-location and to address potential barriers.
- » Develop a plan to implement co-location at a Community Center.

MONITORING CASELOADS FOR EARLY CRISIS INTERVENTION IN INDIVIDUALS WITH IDD AND MH

Room: Crockett C/D

CE Credits Available: LPC/LMFT/SW, CPE for Accountants

Good caseload monitoring systems can help identify early stressors for individuals with IDD and mental health needs, triggering timely responses to avert crises. This session will offer best practices, innovative tools, and a set of strategies for enhanced prevention in caseload management, tailored intervention, and follow-up protocols. Successful cases will be presented to encourage participants to actively discuss, share insights from their experiences and foster a collaborative learning environment.

Bridgette Leyva, LMSW, Director of Crisis Intervention Teams, Emergence Health Network

Deborah Alvidrez, MA, Crisis Intervention Services Program Manager, Emergence Health Network

- » Identify caseload monitoring tools and practices to identify early stressors in individuals with IDD and MH needs, facilitating prompt and preventive crisis intervention in severe cases.
- » List strategies for improving prevention measures, managing caseloads with precision, and crafting tailored intervention and follow-up protocols for diverse client needs.



OVERCOMING TRAGEDY: COMMUNITY CENTERS' ROLE IN FAMILY RESILIENCY

Room: Seguin

CE Credits Available: LPC/LMFT/SW, CPE for Accountants

When a disaster hits, Community Centers are often faced with planning for long-term recovery efforts to assist survivors, responders, and communities in returning to a pre-disaster level of function and reducing the psychological effects of acute or prolonged distress. Oftentimes, these efforts include the establishment of a Family Resiliency Center (FRC). This panel discussion will share how multiple Centers helped develop an FRC in the unique circumstances following a mass shooting within their communities. Panel participants will share insights and lessons learned, and will review potential funding partnerships.

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

Learning Objectives:

- » Explain the purpose of an FRC and different roles a Center may have.
- » Compare service delivery, insights, and lessons learned from multiple Centers that participated in the development of a FRC following a community tragedy.
- » Identify important local, state, and federal partnerships for the development of an FRC.

RETENTIONRX: PRESCRIPTIONS TO REDUCE TURNOVER AND FOSTER A THRIVING WORKPLACE

Room: Republic B/C

CE Credits Available: LPC/LMFT/SW, CPE for Accountants

Turnover is impacting us all, but what should we do about it? Join this lively, informative, and engaging session to learn about the impact of employee turnover on your organization; strategies to attract, retain, and engage top talent; and how to create a workplace where employees feel valued and appreciated. This session will be interactive, so come prepared to participate in discussions and activities. Participants will take home actionable insights that can be used to improve retention at their organizations.

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 Learning Objectives:

» List employee engagement strategies that positively impact culture and retention.



SAVING LIVES THROUGH MENTAL HEALTH EDUCATION AND CRISIS INTERVENTION

Room: Republic A

CE Credits Available: LPC/LMFT/SW, CPE for Accountants

A major challenge that veterans and active-duty service members face is the wait time to receive mental health services. In the face of a military suicide crisis, early intervention is key to saving lives. This presentation will share strategies for reducing veterans' wait times and promoting access to intervention measures, such as mental health education in the military community, to prevent suicide.

Jonathan Bohannon, LCDC-I, Director of Military and Veteran Services, Emergence Health Network

Learning Objectives:

- » List strategies for reducing mental health service wait times.
- » Explain how to partner with military community organizations and events to educate veterans and service members on mental wellness.
- » Employ preventive measures for suicide among active-duty service members.

STAFF RESILIENCY: BEING TRAUMA INFORMED WITHOUT BEING TRAUMA AVOIDANT

Room: Travis A/B, 3rd Floor

CE Credits Available: LPC/LMFT/SW, CNE, CPE for Accountants, LCDC, MHPS/RSPS/PSS/CFP

With reduction in the stigma of trauma and the rise of trauma-informed care, more mental health care staff are talking about their own experiences with trauma and mental health. This presentation will discuss how to help staff develop resiliency skills to work with individuals with trauma while also managing their own trauma background. Presenters will share how MHMR of Tarrant County has worked to support staff who experience trauma reactions, including promoting self-care and providing resiliency training, and other professional practices.

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

Learning Objectives:

- » Describe important considerations for working effectively with patients with trauma backgrounds.
- » Define resiliency factors for support staff.
- » Apply resiliency work and professional self-care strategies to address the resiliency factors and bolster the wellbeing of support staff.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19TH | 8:30 - 10:00 A.M.

STATE BUDGET AND LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Room: Texas D

CE Credits Available: LPC/LMFT/SW, CLE, CPE for Accountants

Of particular interest to Trustees and Chief Executive Officers/Executive Directors, Management and Communications Staff.

Presenters will discuss the current legislative landscape leading into the 89th Legislative Session to begin in January 2025, including initiatives that impact or have the potential to impact the Community Center system. This presentation will also feature perspectives on current and future state budget outlooks.

Lee Johnson, MPA, Chief Executive Officer, Texas Council of Community Centers

Kelsey Bernstein, Chief of Government Relations, Texas Council of Community Centers

Eva DeLuna Castro, MPA, Senior Budget Analyst, Office of State Representative Trey Martinez Fischer

Learning Objectives:

- » Identify new state laws impacting the delivery of healthcare, special populations, and the Community Center system.
- » Discuss the impact of these laws on Medicaid and indigent care programs and Community Center resources and operations.
- » Describe additional legal requirements and constraints created by the state budget and corresponding riders.

STATE HOSPITAL STEP DOWN: A TRANSITIONAL APPROACH TO SERVE THE WHOLE PERSON

Room: Crockett A/B

CE Credits Available: LPC/LMFT,SW, CNE, PD for Psychologists, CPE for Accountants

The Bluebonnet Trails Community Services State Hospital Step Down program provides a unique opportunity for individuals who have been in a state hospital for over 365 days to enter a transitional living home in the community, with a high level of person-centered recovery services provided by an Intensive Treatment Team. This highly successful program targets a population that has typically been determined to be ineligible for other discharge options. The Bluebonnet Trails team will overview the program's functions, processes, and services provided.

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

Learning Objectives:

- » Summarize the State Hospital Step Down eligibility and program referral process.
- » Differentiate between services provided in the program by the LMHA and services provided through strategic community partnerships.



THE CALL WITH RIGHTS-BASED TREATMENT

Room: Travis C/D, 3rd Floor

CE Credits Available: LPC/LMFT/SW, CPE for Accountants, LCDC, MHPS/RSPS/PSS/CFP

In October 2023, the World Health Organization and the UN High Commissioner on Human Rights jointly released a report urging a transformative shift in mental health treatment policies through adoption of Rights-Based Treatment principles. This presentation will explore the essence of Rights-Based Treatment, emphasizing its significance in mental health. Tailored for Community Centers, practical steps will be discussed to align policies and treatment approaches with Rights-Based Treatment principles. Join this crucial conversation to lead positive change in mental health care.

Janet Paleo, Director of Government Relations for Recovery-based Services, Texas Council of Community Centers

Learning Objectives:

- » List the fundamental principles of Rights-Based Treatment in the context of mental health.
- » Explain how Rights-Based Treatment enhances the effectiveness of mental health care.
- » Identify and implement practical steps for realigning existing policies and treatment approaches within Community Centers to align with the principles of Rights-Based Treatment.

FRANK M. ADAMS OVERVIEW & NOMINEES

OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARDS



GENERAL SESSION

Tuesday, June 18, 2024 | Begins at 8:30 a.m.

The Frank M. Adams Outstanding Volunteer Service Award was established in 1990 in honor of the late Frank M. Adams, a founding member of the Texas Council of Community Centers.

The FMA Award is presented in four categories: Individual, Community, Media, and Board Service. The award recognizes a level of volunteerism that is representative of long-term commitment, is exceptional and far-reaching in scope, diversified in effort, and worthy of statewide recognition.

In 2021, the Gladdie Fowler Award for Outstanding Board Service was added in memory of Ms. Gladdie Fowler, who served the Spindletop Board of Trustees for 35 years and was a longstanding member of the Texas Council Board of Directors.

NOMINEES

Individual

Officer Christopher Byrdsong
Nominated by Community Healthcore

Deborah Tomai Nominated by Tropical Texas Behavioral Health

Media _

Avery Martinez, KVIA-TV
Nominated by Emergence Health Network

Community —

Denton County MHMR LOSS Team
Nominated by Denton County MHMR Center

Greater Longview Optimal Wellness (GLOW)
Nominated by Community Healthcore

Morton Salt Nominated by Andrews Center

Board Service —

Mary Lou Flynn-Dupart Nominated by Tropical Texas Behavioral Health

Dr. Rick Crawford Nominated by LifePath Systems Sidney Burns
Nominated by Community Healthcore
Judge Willis V. Smith
Nominated by Texas Panhandle Centers

2024 FMA AWARDS SELECTION PANEL

Allison Greer
The Center for Health Care Services

Andrea Kovarik
Nueces Center for MHID

Bonnie Hellums The Harris Center for MH and IDD Danielle Pardue Spindletop Center

Jessica Dodds Gulf Bend Center

Kevin Barker Texana Center Nicole Lievsay
The Harris Center for MH and IDD

Nikki San Miguel Tropical Texas Behavioral Health

Victoria I. San Martin MHMR of Tarrant County



OUTSTANDING INDIVIDUAL VOLUNTEER SERVICE

DEBORAH TOMAI



Deborah Tomai is a life-changer. She is the epitome of strength, determination, and a caring heart. Her drive to promote the wellbeing of individuals with Down syndrome in the Rio Grande Valley has improved many lives.

After giving birth to her third child in 2011, the doctor informed Deborah that her baby boy, Ben, was born with Down syndrome. At that very moment, Deborah decided the best way to ensure Ben would have the "best life possible" was for her to learn and understand as much as she could about Down syndrome.

In 2012, Deborah co-founded a non-profit organization called The Rio Grande Valley Down Syndrome Association (RGVDSA), where she serves as founding President of the Board. The organization has grown from 7 families in 2012 to over 500 families across four counties in 2024. Deborah has provided numerous presentations and trainings on

Down syndrome, disability, acceptance and inclusion for students and teachers of all ages. In 2015, she delivered an enlightening and moving TEDx talk in McAllen, TX, titled "Birth of a Child, Birth of a Community."

She participated in Texas Partners in Policymaking, worked with Easterseals - RGV, has served as a parent leader with McAllen Mamas of Children with Disabilities, and is a founding member of the RGV Disability Advocates Coalition. Deborah is also the coordinator for Down Syndrome Texas, where she facilitated advocacy and awareness days at the State Capitol in Austin in 2019 and 2023. She volunteers on several disability-related committees, including the Mayor's Inclusion Task Force, the Tropical Texas Behavioral Health Planning and Network Advisory Committee, and so much more.

Deborah's dedication to promoting Down syndrome and IDD awareness is truly an act of compassion driven by a vision of care and dignity for all. Tropical Texas Behavioral Health is proud to nominate Deborah for the Frank M. Adams Individual Volunteer Service Award.

FRANK M. ADAMS AWARDS

OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER SERVICE

MORTON SALT



For over 100 years, Morton Salt has contributed to the livelihoods of citizens in the Pineywoods region of East Texas. Beyond being the area's major employer, the company has played an integral role, for more than 25 years, providing enriching opportunities for workers at Andrews Diversified Industries (ADI). ADI partners with several businesses in East Texas to offer quality vocational training and meaningful engagement to individuals with mental illness, intellectual and developmental disabilities, and substance use needs.

For ADI staff, work begins with the shipment of goods and packaging

materials from Morton Salt. Truckloads of salt from the Grand Saline salt mines are shipped to the ADI warehouse, where workers turn pallets of table, ice cream, and light salt into product pallets for retail sale. Once in the hands of the 30 to 35 workers, box building begins. Everyone spends the day opening, taping, and gathering the smaller boxes into which the salt will be packaged.

ADI workers take immense pride in what they do for Morton Salt. In addition to earning compensation, individuals earn to work as a team, gaining self-confidence and independence while developing lifelong relationships. The ADI supervisors make sure there is a job for every employee willing to work— no matter how small the job, there is a place for everyone. This opportunity created by Morton Salt is life-changing for many who otherwise may not have access to meaningful employment.

Approximately two years ago, financial concerns threatened the closure of ADI. Morton Salt recognized the importance of the opportunities they provided and worked with Andrews Center to ensure the continuation of employment and healthy engagement for its workforce.

Beyond a business partnership, the Morton Salt staff demonstrates its dedication through thoughtful acts. Eight years ago, Morton Salt employees organized and hosted a holiday party for ADI workers as a token of appreciation for their hard work. Now the event is an eagerly anticipated annual tradition bringing joy to all and emphasizing the spirit of the holiday season. Andrews Center and ADI are blessed to partner with Morton Salt, and are grateful for their commitment to their community, including our special citizens.



OUTSTANDING MEDIA VOLUNTEER SERVICE

AVERY MARTINEZ, KVIA-TV



In February 2023, KVIA-TV launched an unprecedented campaign in the El Paso television market called the Be Mindful initiative, which airs daily news coverage on mental health-related topics led by a dedicated mental health correspondent. With Emergence Health Network's assistance, KVIA-TV received a grant from Report for America, an initiative of The Ground Truth Project, a renowned nonprofit organization dedicated to providing newsrooms across the country with journalists determined to share information about under-covered issues. Through the grant, the station was able to hire Avery Martinez for the sole purpose of highlighting mental health-related topics and the impact of mental health issues on El Paso residents.

Thanks to the efforts of KVIA-TV and Martinez, the El Paso community is gaining knowledge and the tools needed to enhance their mental wellbeing. Martinez has covered a wide range of topics related to mental health, including

treatments, resources, concerns, challenges, and stigma reduction. As a journalist, Martinez knows the power of storytelling to connect with viewers. He often shares the personal stories of people with lived experience and in recovery as an important part of the mental health awareness message.

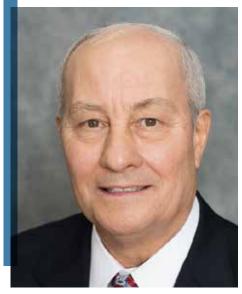
Since the start of the campaign, Martinez and KVIA-TV have not wavered from their commitment to regularly air mental health-related stories, elevating the conversations surrounding behavioral wellness. KVIA-TV also dedicated a space on their website to the initiative, including a robust archive of their stories, links to community resources, and a platform for the community to share their stories.

Emergence Health Network is proud to nominate Martinez and KVIA-TV leadership for going the extra mile and truly making a difference in their border region.

FRANK M. ADAMS AWARDS

GLADDIE FOWLER AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING BOARD SERVICE

DR. RICK CRAWFORD



Dr. Rick Crawford, a servant-leader and psychologist, was appointed to the LifePath Systems Board of Trustees in Collin County in 2000. With his extensive knowledge of mental health conditions, and passion for helping people who may not have the ability or resources to help themselves, he began his service by quickly educating himself on the inadequacies and detrimental effects of the state's managed care pilot program, known as "NorthStar."

Dr. Crawford's knowledge, energy, and determination gave him the ability to dialogue with local and state officials and their key staff concerning the negative effects of NorthStar on Collin County, LifePath's local service area. He built strong and active relationships with these representatives while mentoring other Trustees to do the same. His advocacy on behalf of individuals with mental illness, substance use disorders, and intellectual and developmental disabilities created an opportunity

to educate local leaders about unmet needs in the community. He expanded his efforts by actively participating in Texas Council Board of Directors meetings as the delegate for LifePath Systems. In that environment, Dr. Crawford learned to navigate the legislative system, donating many hours and personal funds to travel to Austin and meet with state legislators and other state officials.

Taking on the uphill battle to terminate the NorthStar pilot was no easy task but he was relentless in his efforts, and with the assistance of key legislative leaders and the Texas Council, the 17-year pilot project ended by recommendation of the Sunset Advisory Commission and action of the 84th Legislature. Dr. Crawford actively promotes the value of engagement with local and state officials and urges all Community Centers to educate them on mental health and IDD issues.

He also values the importance of recognizing outstanding staff for their efforts to support clients, which too often goes unrewarded. He initiated a program by which the LifePath Systems Board of Trustees recognizes an outstanding employee from each of the divisions each year.

Dr. Crawford was elected chair of the Texas Council Board of Directors from 2021-2023. As the chair, he led the effort to resolve complex issues that helped Community Centers across the state with their system of care, including the charge to improve funding for IDD.

Dr. Crawford's service as a board member for more than 23 years has made an immeasurable difference for people without a voice. He has tirelessly built relationships and championed MH/IDD causes that will impact LifePath Systems and other Community Centers across the state for many years to come.



PAST AWARD RECIPIENTS

1991

Individual: Judge C. L. Abernethy (Central Plains MHMR Center) Media: Abilene Reporter News (Abilene Regional MHMR Center)Community: Tanglefoot Extension Homemakers (Central Counties Center for MHMR Services)

1992

Individual: Betty Hardwick (Abilene Regional MHMR Center)Media: KLBK-13 Television (Lubbock Regional MHMR Center)Community: No Nomination

1993

Individual: Jodie E. Stavinoha(Riceland Regional Mental Health Authority)Media: Galveston County Daily News (The Gulf Coast Center)Community: Methodist Hospital School of Nursing (Lubbock Regional MHMR Center)

1994

Individual: Felice S. Klein (MHMR Authority of Brazos Valley)Media: KTAB-TV (Abilene Regional MHMR Center) Community: No Nomination

1995

Individual: Charley H. Shannon, PhD (MHMR Services for the Concho Valley)Media: Denison Herald (MHMR Services of Texoma) Community: Gatesville Community Volunteers (Central Counties Center for MHMR Services)

1996

Individual: Suzanne Lasko (Tarrant County MHMR Services) Media: KFXK Fox 51, Longview (Sabine Valley Center) Community: Troy 4-H Club (Central Counties Center for MHMR Services)

1997

Individual: Norma Henry (The Center for Health Care Services & San Antonio Alliance for the Mentally III) Media: Leslie Sowers, The Houston Chronicle (MHMR Authority of Harris County)Community: United Service Club, Denison High School (MHMR Services of Texoma)

1998

Individual: Helen Dishongh (Tri-County MHMR Services) Media: KXII Broadcasters, Inc. (MHMR Services of Texoma)Community: Lufkin Alliance for the Mentally III (Burke Center)

1999

Individual: Mary Lou Caldwell (The Gulf Coast Center) Media: Bonham Daily Favorite (MHMR Services of Texoma)Community: South Liberty State Center Advisory Board (Tri-County MHMR Services)

2000

Individual: Donald L. Dumas (Austin Travis County MHMR Center)Media: Herald Democrat (MHMR Services of Texoma) Community: Llano Crawfish Open, Inc. (Hill Country Community MHMR Center)

2001

Individual: William E. Hall, Jr. (Tri-County MHMR Services)Media: Fort Worth Star-Telegram (MHMR of Tarrant County) Community: Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Sherman (MHMR Services of Texoma)

2002

Individual: Frank K. Collins (Spindletop MHMR Services)Media: Eastland/Callahan County Newspaper Network (Central Texas MHMR Center) Community: Fayette County Commission for the Mentally Retarded (Bluebonnet Trails Community MHMR Center)

2003

Individual: Genevieve Tarlton Hearon (Austin Travis County MHMR Center) Media: The Galveston Daily News (The Gulf Coast Center) Community: Longview AMBUCS (Sabine Valley Center)

2004

Individual: Blanche Ridley (Tri-County MHMR Services) Media: San Antonio Express News (The Center for Health Care Services) Community: San Antonio Police Officers Association (The Center for Health Care Services)

2005

Individual: Robert Jimenez (The Center for Health Care Services) Media: Corpus Christi Caller-Times (MHMR Center of Nueces County) Community: Brown McCarroll, LLP (Austin Travis County MHMR Center)

2006

Individual: Hartley Sappington (Bluebonnet Trails Community MHMR Center) Media: Howard County ARC (West Texas Centers for MHMR) Community: Melissa McEver (Tropical Texas Center for MHMR)

2007

Individual: Beth Holt (Community Healthcore)
Media: Trenton Tribune (MHMR Services of Texoma)
Community: First Baptist Church of Conroe (Tri-County
MHMR Services)

2008

Individual: Jamie Travis (The Gulf Coast Center)
Media: Gainesville Daily Register (MHMR Services of
Texoma) Community: Tarrant/Dallas County Toy Run
Board of Directors (MHMR of Tarrant County
& Metrocare Services)

2009

Individual: George Hernandez (The Center for Health Care Services) Media: Mike Henry - KBST News (West Texas Centers for MHMR) Community: Mayor's Mental Health Task Force Monitoring Committee (Austin Travis County MHMR Center)

2010

Individual: Karen M. Garber (MHMR Authority of Brazos Valley) Media: The Van Alstyne Leader (MHMR Services of Texoma) Community: The Arc of Greater Beaumont (Spindletop Center)

2011

Individual: Mary Ernestine Butler (Texana Center) Media: Victoria Advocate (Gulf Bend Center) Community: Alcoa Fastening Systems (Heart of Texas Behavioral Health Network

2012

Individual: Barbara Duren (Tri-County Services) Media: Karin McCay - KCBD News (StarCare Specialty Health System) Community: The Rural East Texas Health Network (Burke Center)

2013

Individual: Eileen McDowell "The Art Lady" (Texana Center)Media: North Texas e-News (Texoma Community Center) Community: The Marc Center (Central Counties Services)

2014

Individual: Stephanie Contreras (Tropical Texas Behavioral Health) Media: Joe Pollaro (Texoma Community Center) Community: Mental Health Connection of Tarrant County (MHMR of Tarrant County)

2015

Individual: Judge Polly Spencer (The Center for Health Care Services) Media: KTEN News (Texoma Community Center) Community: Legacy Ford (Texana Center)

2016

Individual: Harold Wright (Texoma Community Center) Media: Midland Reporter-Telegram (Permian Basin Community Centers) Community: Abilene Christian School (Betty Hardwick Center)

2017

Individual: Marjorie "Ms. B" Boniface Balz (Central Counties Services) Media: KTRE-TV (Burke) Community: Lubbock County Sheriff's Department (StarCare Specialty Health System)

2018

Individual: Jacqueline "Jackie" Shannon (MHMR Services for the Concho Valley) Media: NBC 5 (Metrocare Services) Community: VFW Post 3278 (Metrocare Services)

2019

Individual: Colonel Howard Daniel, Jr. (Burke) Media: Nicole Hickl, KGBT-TV CBS 4 News (Tropical Texas Behavioral Health) Community: Grace Creek Church (Community Healthcore)

2020

Individual: Dianne Hickey (StarCare Specialty Health System) Media: KMHT Radio 103.9 (Community Healthcore) Community: Some Other Place (Spindletop Center)

2021

Individual: Wendy Perrott (LifePath Systems) Media: Shrink Box Podcast (Tropical Texas Behavioral Health) Community: UTEP Collegiate Services - Ric Romero (Emergence Health Network) Board: Brian Shannon (StarCare Specialty Health System)

2022

Community: Binky Patrol (LifePath Systems) Board: Jill Martinez (Metrocare Services)

2023

Individual: Shawn Barnes (Nueces Center for MHID) Community: Chula Chasers (MHMR of Tarrant County) Board: Margaret Jones (PermiaCare)

COMMITTEES

TEXAS COUNCIL OF COMMUNITY CENTERS PUBLIC INFORMATION. EDUCATION. AND TRAINING COMMITTEE

Bonnie Hellums, JD,

Co-Chair, The Harris Center for MH and IDD

Randi Leffall

Co-Chair

Community Healthcore

Cary Houston

MHMR Concho Valley

Elijah Anderson

Betty Hardwick Center

Frank Coffin

Spindletop Center

Kenneth Bernstein

Metrocare Services

Larry Adams

Texas Panhandle Centers

Linda Holloway

Denton County MHMR Center

Louella Tate, PhD

Central Counties Services

Shane Britton

Center for Life Resources

Shelby Dupnik

Camino Real Community Services

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Brent Worthen, PhD

Texana Center

Carrie Parks

Metrocare Services

Heather Champion

Spindletop Center

Justin Moseley

The Center for Health Care Services

Kevin Barker

Texana Center

Kinnie Reina

Burke

Mark Janes, MD

Bluebonnet Trails Community Services

Martha Sanderford-Smith, MSN, RN, QMHP-CS

MHMR of Tarrant County

Sean Mantey, LPC, LCDC

MHMR of Tarrant County

Yvonne Castanon

The Center for Health Care Services

Maria Rios

Texas Council of Community Centers

Jacquelin Wang

Texas Council of Community Centers

Pat Holder

Professional Event Services

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Allison Greer

Vice President of Government Relations

Ashley Esparza

Interim Director of Integrated
Marketing and Communications

Carla Riedl

Legislative Analyst

Edward Benavides

Vice President of Adult Behavioral Health

Elizabeth Ackley

Senior Director of Learning and Development

Venisa Saenz

Chief of Staff



HOTEL FLOOR PLAN

