



2025 Texas Council Conference
June 25-27, 2025
Sheraton Dallas Hotel – Dallas, TX

Preliminary Agenda

*Information on the preliminary agenda subject to change. Updated May 8, 2025.
 Continuing Education credit for multiple disciplines will be provided for this event.*

Wednesday, June 25, 2025

Registration 7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Consortia/Workgroup Meetings 8:30 a.m. – Noon
Consortia Meetings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial Management (CFOs) • IDD • Medical Services/Nursing Committee
Workgroup Meetings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive Administrators and Board Liaisons (BL-SIG) • Communications Special Interest Group (Comm-SIG) • Mental Health First Aid (MHFA)
Lunch (ON YOUR OWN) Noon – 1:00 p.m.
Opening Session 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.
Welcome and Featured Speaker: <i>Cherene Caraco</i>
Concurrent Sessions 3:30 – 5:00 p.m.
All About Access: Same Day, Next Day, and Just in Time Implementation at Gulf Coast Center <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Renee Valdez, MD, PhD, Chief Medical Officer, Gulf Coast Center • Jessica Gentry, LPC-S, LMHC-S, Senior Director of Behavioral Health Services, Gulf Coast Center • Felicia Jeffery, LPC, Chief Executive Officer, Gulf Coast Center • Devon Stanley, DSL, PMP, Chief Information Officer, Gulf Coast Center

Concurrent Sessions

3:30 – 5:00 p.m.

Compassion Fatigue in Clinical Leadership: Prevention and Intervention Strategies

- **Celeste Nevarez**, MC, MPH, LPC-S, Chief of Clinical Services, Emergence Health Network

From Burnout to Breakthrough: How Artificial Intelligence Empowers Mental Health Professionals

- **Carin Shuford**, Manager of Health Information Systems, Texana Center
- **Tera Stellard**, Director of Application Support, Integral Care

Legal Education Attainment Program (LEAP): An Innovative Alternative to Inpatient Juvenile Competency Restoration

- **Uche Chibueze**, PsyD, ABPP, Assistant Director of Health Services, Harris County Juvenile Probation Department
- **Florencia Iturri**, PhD, Specialty Court Clinician, Harris County Juvenile Probation Department
- **Toni Walker**, PhD, Staff Psychologist/LEAP Director, Harris Center

Medication-Assisted Treatment and Withdrawal Management Services in Local Mental Health Authorities: The Bluebonnet Trails Experience

- **Carlos Tirado**, MD, MPH, Addiction Psychiatry Medical Director, Bluebonnet Trails Community Services
- **Mark Janes**, MD, Medical Director, Bluebonnet Trails Community Services

Ripple Effects: Understanding How Military Trauma Impacts Veteran Families

- **Gary Medina**, MPA, Homeless Veteran Program Manager, Texas Veterans Commission

Trustee Roles and Responsibilities

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

Evening Events

Board and Trustees Reception

6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Executive Directors Dinner

7:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Thursday, June 26, 2025

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

Poster Sessions 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	
From Isolation to Empowerment: Building Community Through Parent Support Groups <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Samantha Hernandez, Family Partner, Integral Care	
How Risk Stratification Can Improve Access to Care for Rural Populations <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Caleb Hill, MPA, Director of Integrated Health, Burke	
Integration of LOC1S Care Within Primary Care Settings <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Michelle Stewart, MHSA, LSSBB, Program Director, Primary Care, The Center for Health Care Services• Clarissa Aguilar, PhD, Director of Psychology Training, The Center for Health Care Services	
Mentorship Matters: Enhancing Resilience Through a Group Mentorship Program <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Laurel Mollere, LCSW-S, Practice Manager – Behavioral Health Clinic, Integral Care• David West, LCSW, LCDC, Associate Director of Integrated Systems of Care, Integral Care	
Nothing to Something: Responding to the Call <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nickolas Raczek, MS, MA, LPC, Clinic Administrator, The Center for Health Care Services	
Occupational Therapy Interventions for All Centers – Even If You Don’t Have an Occupational Therapist <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Laura Golden, OTR, OTD, System Director – Transition and Teaming, MHMR of Tarrant County	
Office-Based Opioid Treatment (OBOT) Expansion <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Maggie Leal, MBA, LSSBB, Director of Crisis Services, The Center for Health Care Services	
Peer Perspective: Changing the Faces of Incarcerated Individuals <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Angela Hurd, MS, MA, LPC, ASOTP, Clinical Team Lead, The Harris Center for MH and IDD	

General Session 8:30 - 10:00 a.m.	
Frank M. Adams Awards Featured Speaker: Kory Shrum	

General Session 10:30 a.m. - Noon	
State and National Perspectives Panel Chuck Ingoglia, President and CEO, The National Council for Mental Wellbeing Jonah Cunningham, President and CEO, National Association of County Behavioral Health and Developmental Disability Directors (NACBHDD) Trina Ita, Deputy Executive Commissioner, Behavioral Health Services, Texas HHSC Haley Turner, Deputy Executive Commissioner, Community Services, Texas HHSC	

Lunch (Exhibit Hall)

Noon – 1:30 p.m.

Concurrent Sessions

1:30 – 3:00 p.m.

Breaking the Silence: Suicide Prevention in Schools

- **Rocio Bickei**, MA, Behavioral Health Partnership Program Liaison, Emergence Health Network/ESC 19
- **Kendra Cates**, LPC, Behavioral Health Partnership Program Liaison, StarCare/ESC 17
- **Shuniqua Ortiz**, LPC, Behavioral Health Partnership Program Liaison, North Texas Behavioral Health Authority/ESC 10
- **Jessica Siegfried**, LPC, Behavioral Health Partnership Program Liaison, Betty Hardwick Center/ESC 14
- **Edwina Thompson**, LPC, Behavioral Health Partnership Program Liaison, MHMR of Tarrant County/ESC 11

Collaborative Care in Forensic Psychiatry

- **Daniela Chisolm**, JD, Senior Trial Attorney, El Paso County Attorney's Office
- **Kristi Taylor**, JD, Executive Director, Texas Judicial Commission on Mental Health
- **Lizette Lara**, MD, Adult Psychiatry Resident, Texas Tech University Health Science Center El Paso

Coordinating Approaches to Care for IDD Individuals with Challenging Behaviors

- **Clara Daniel**, MA, Local IDD Authority Director, Lakes Regional Community Center
- **Teresa Vitela**, Local IDD Authority Director, StarCare Specialty Health System
- **Tammy Lefall**, Assistant Director of IDD Provider Services, Lakes Regional Community Center

Innovative Techniques and Tools for Comprehensive Grant Management

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

Insight into the Texas Political Landscape

- **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

Integrating Non-Medical Drivers of Health (NMDOH) in a Value-Based Integrated Health Home and a FoodRX Program

- **Stanley Williams**, PhD, LPC, Director of Integrated Health, The Harris Center for MH and IDD
- **Scott Hickey**, PhD, Director Health Analytics & Research, The Harris Center for MH and IDD
- **Ling-Lun Chien**, PhD, Project Evaluator, The Harris Center for MH and IDD

Teamwork Makes the Dream Work: A Model Countywide Collaborative

- **Linda Holloway**, PhD, CRC, Professor Emerita, University of North Texas
- **Alex Reed**, Division Manager – Community Health, Denton County Health Department
- **Pam Gutierrez**, Executive Director, Denton County MHMR Center

Yes, You Can! Discover the Roadmap to Bill for Peer and Family Partner Services

- **Noah Abdenour**, CPS, Director Peer Support and Recovery, Texas HHSC
- **Miracle Akortha**, PSS, MHPS, CFP, Mental Health Program Specialist VI, Texas HHSC
- **Carole Blackmon**, MS, CFP, QMHP, Peer Support Family Coordinator, Texas HHSC

Concurrent Sessions

3:30 – 5:00 p.m.

Bend the Trend: Advancing Early Mental Health Interventions in Schools

- **Jeffrey Tunnell**, CPA, Executive Director, Gulf Bend Center
- **Kim Omecinski**, QMHP-CS, Director of Behavioral Health Services, Gulf Bend Center
- **Michelle Chavez**, QMHP-CS, School-Based Mental Health Case Manager, Gulf Bend Center
- **Cindy Salinas**, MA, Director of MTSS, Victoria Independent School District
- **Alisha Hernandez**, MEd, Counselor, Victoria Independent School District
- **Brandy Garcia**, MTSS-B Specialist, Victoria Independent School District
- **Lydia Hobbs**, MEd, Social Emotional Behavioral Specialist, Victoria Independent School District

Building Connections in Peer Support: Expanding the Impact of Peer Workers

- **Noah Abdenour**, CPS, Director of Peer Support and Recovery, Texas HHSC
- **Miracle Akortha**, PSS, MHPS, CFP, Mental Health Program Specialist VI, Texas HHSC

Jailhouse Docs: Psychiatric Care in the County Jail Setting

- **Courtney Bearden**, RN, PMHNP-BC, Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner, Bluebonnet Trails Community Service
- **Jonathan Artz**, MD, MS, Assistant Medical Director, Bluebonnet Trails Community Services

Stop Dreading Productivity Management: How to Achieve a 93% Compliance Rate!

- **Kelli Laos**, MSW, LCSW, Chief Operating Officer, Metrocare
- **Jennifer Wadsworth**, MA, LPC-S, MBA, Chief Clinical Officer, Metrocare

The Intersection Between Mental Health and the Housing Crisis

- **Kali Holyfield**, LPC, LCDC, Deputy Director of Specialty Programs, Integral Care
- **Ashley Jones**, Practice Manager-Housing Administration, Integral Care

The Power of Storytelling: Humanizing Our Work and Our Communities

- **Kory Shrum**, Author and Keynote Speaker

United for Life: The Power of Community in Suicide Prevention

- **Dennis Steelman**, MA, LPC-S, LCDC, Program Manager, ACCESS
- **Marisela Gutierrez**, MS, LPA-I, CCBHC Program Director, Andrews Center
- **Michelle Matthews**, BS, Suicide Prevention Coordinator, ACCESS

Unlocking Care: PermiaCare's Specialized IDD/MH Clinics

- **Pam Shurley**, MA, LPA, LIDDA Director, Licensed Psychological Associate, PermiaCare
- **Michelle McClellan**, Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner, PermiaCare/Midland Memorial Hospital Clinic Manager/Private Practice
- **Amanda Morphew**, MSW, Service Coordination Team Leader and IDD/MH Clinic Manager, PermiaCare
- **Krystal Jones**, MSW, LCSW, Crisis Intervention Specialist, PermiaCare

Evening Event

Center Party

6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Friday, June 27, 2025

Registration

7:30 a.m. - Noon

Continental Breakfast

7:30 – 8:30 a.m.

Concurrent Sessions

8:30 – 10:00 a.m.

Driving Agency Growth through Training: A Conversation on Training Clinical Staff

- **Andrew Ahles**, MS, LMFT-S, Clinical Training Manager, Metrocare
- **Jennifer Torres**, MSW, Director of Intensive Services, Metrocare

Effortless Integration: Aligning Zero Suicide with CCBHC Certification

- **Teresa Williams**, MA, LPC, PMP, Director of Clinical Services, Integral Care
- **Jessica Pedrick**, MEd, PMP, Clinical Manager of Special Projects, Integral Care
- **Samm Zachary**, MA, LPC, Suicide Care Coordinator, HHSC – Prevention and Behavioral Health Promotion
- **Leivy Resendiz**, MS, CPHQ, Quality Management Manager and Zero Suicide Program Director, Tropical Texas Behavioral Health
- **Mike Olson**, Systems Manager, Zero Suicide Initiative and LOSS Team, MHMR of Tarrant County

Ethics, AI, and Healthcare: Real Issues or Artificial? Part 2

- **Michael Gillette**, PhD, Consultant, Bioethical Services of Virginia, Inc.

Excellence in Peer Leadership

- **Erinn Graber**, MA, LPC, LCDC, PSS, CFP, Peer Services Manager, The Center for Health Care Services
- **Armando Sanchez**, The Center for Health Care Services

Hitting the Mark when Building a Jail-Based Competency Restoration Program

- **Terry Hancock**, MA, LPC, NCC, Clinical Team Lead, The Harris Center for MH and IDD
- **Krystin Holmes**, PhD, LPC-S, LMFT-S, NCC, Program Director, The Harris Center for MH and IDD

How Community Health Workers Improve Engagement in Behavioral Health Services

- **Justin McClenny**, LCDC, Intervention Specialist, HHSC
- **Tracy Harris**, CCHW, LCDC-I, Program Manager, MHMR of Tarrant County
- **Desiree Fanner**, CCHW, Certified Community Health Worker, MHMR of Tarrant County
- **Mandy Schuman**, CHW, RSPS, CPS, CTSS, Community Health Worker Team Lead, Betty Hardwick Center
- **Jamie Wallace**, CHW, Community Health Worker, Betty Hardwick Center
- **Elizabeth Zarate**, Emergence Health Network

Saving the Lives of our Most Acute Clients: Including Crisis Intervention Teams (CIT) in Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) Team Meetings

- **Rhonda Russ**, MA, LPC-S, Chief of Crisis Intervention, Emergence Health Network
- **Denisse Cabral**, MPA, Director of Crisis Continuum, Emergence Health Network

State Budget and Legislative Update

- **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**, Senior Budget Analyst and Policy Advisor, Office of State Representative Donna Howard

General Session

10:30 a.m. - Noon

Featured Speaker: Jeff Harry and Send-Off

Peer Post-Conference Session

Lunch (Peer Participants Only): 12:30 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.

Educational Session: 1:30 - 4:30 p.m.

Featured Speaker: Dr. Michael Gillette, Ethics Consultant

Topic: Peer Ethics