



**2026 Texas Council Conference**  
**June 10-12, 2026 | Grand Hyatt San Antonio – San Antonio, TX**

**Preliminary Agenda**

*Information provided is subject to change. Updated March 31, 2026.  
 Continuing education credit for multiple disciplines will be provided for this event.*

**Wednesday, June 10, 2026**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>
<b>7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.</b>	Registration
<b>8:30 a.m. – Noon</b>	<p align="center"><b><u>Consortium and Workgroup Meetings</u></b></p> <p><i>Consortium Meetings</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IDD</li> <li>• Medical Services/Nursing Committee</li> </ul> <p><i>Workgroup Meetings</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Board Liaison Special Interest Group (BL-SIG)</li> <li>• Communications Special Interest Group (Comm-SIG)</li> <li>• Mental Health First Aid (MHFA)</li> </ul>
<b>Noon – 1:00 p.m.</b>	Lunch (On Your Own)
<b>1:00 – 3:00 p.m.</b>	<p align="center"><b>Opening Session:</b>          Welcome and Keynote by Chet Garner</p>
<b>3:30 – 5:00 p.m.</b>	<p align="center"><b><u>Concurrent Sessions</u></b></p> <p><b><i>Addiction 2026: New Substances, New Treatments</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Michael Weaver, MD, Professor and Medical Director, McGovern Medical School at UT Health Science Center Houston</li> </ul> <p><b><i>Artificial Intelligence: A Cohort Review of the Current AI Landscape for CCBHCs</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Holly Borel, MBA, Chief Executive Officer, Spindletop Center</li> <li>• Carin Shuford, Manager of Health Information Systems, Texana Center</li> <li>• Panelists TBA</li> </ul> <p><b><i>Bringing Care Home: A Pilot Program Integrating Psychiatry and Nursing Care</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Marina Vladimir, PhD, MHA, LPC, Clinical Administrator, The Center for Health Care Services</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Martine Jerome, LCSW, Clinical Director, The Center for Health Care Services</li> <li>• Joshua Atkinson, MD, MBA, Medical Director, The Center for Health Care Services</li> <li>• Valerie Sanchez, RN, Registered Nurse, The Center for Health Care Services</li> </ul> <p><b><i>From Barriers to Bridges: Expanding Career Pathways through Peer-to-Career</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jermaine Hines, MHPS, RSPS, Marketing and Community Coordinator, RecoveryPeople</li> <li>• Christine Zimmerly, MHPS, RSPS, PRS IC&amp;RC, PSS, JI-RPS, Peer to Career Director, RecoveryPeople</li> </ul> <p><b><i>Making it Matter: Building Community through Media</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Laura Mattingly, Digital Communications Coordinator, Emergence Health Network</li> </ul> <p><b><i>Modernizing IDD Services: A Data-Driven Model for Tomorrow’s Local IDD Authorities</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Felicia Jeffery, MA, LPC, Chief Executive Officer, Gulf Coast Center</li> <li>• Deanna David, QIDP, Director of IDD Services, Gulf Coast Center</li> <li>• Brooke Camarata, MA, Supervisor of IDD Authority Services, Gulf Coast Center</li> </ul> <p><b><i>Responding to Self-Harm for High Needs Populations</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Priscilla Vomero, MEd, LPC, Mental Health Therapist, SW CARES Center</li> </ul> <p><b><i>Transitional Rent and Intensive Services: A Community Stabilization Approach</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jennifer Torres, MSW, Director of Intensive Services, Metrocare</li> <li>• Cari Davis, MA, LPC-S, Program Manager of ACT, OCR, and AOT, Metrocare</li> </ul> <p><b><i>Trustee Roles and Responsibilities</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pamela Beach, JD, MBA, BSN, General Counsel, Texas Council Risk Management Fund</li> </ul>
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***Wednesday, June 10, 2026: Evening Events***

<i>Time</i>	<i>Activity</i>
<b>6:00 – 7:30 p.m.</b>	Board and Trustee Reception (Invitation Only)
<b>7:30 – 9:00 p.m.</b>	Executive Directors Dinner (Invitation Only)

## Thursday, June 11, 2026

Time	Activity
7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Registration
8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Poster Sessions</u></b></p> <p><b><i>Blurred Lines: Managing the Workforce via Multiple Lenses</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creslyn Davis, ABD, MBA, HRPM, CDP, Chief HR Officer, Spindletop Center</li> </ul> <p><b><i>Brushstrokes of Healing: Leveraging Art and History to Engage Veterans' Mental Health Care</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jonathan Bohannon, LPC-A, Director of Military and Veteran Services, Emergence Health Network</li> </ul> <p><b><i>Don't Ignore the Flashing Red Lights: Using Data to Drive Safety Plan Compliance</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Andrew Ahles, LMFT-S, Director of Clinical Training, Metrocare Services</li> </ul> <p><b><i>Everyone Has a Role: Building Collaboration and Trust in Overdose Prevention</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EdRicardo Gandara, Community Educator, Emergence Health Network</li> <li>• Ariel Mess, MSc.Psy, QMHP-CS, CARA Project Coordinator, Emergence Health Network</li> </ul> <p><b><i>Expanding Access: A Collaborative Grant Funding Framework</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jesus Gutierrez, Practice Manager, Integral Care</li> </ul> <p><b><i>Five Leadership Principles in Implementing a New Program</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nickolas Raczek, MA, LPC, Clinic Administrator, The Center For Health Care Services</li> </ul> <p><b><i>Kitchen Table Power: The Eldest Daughter and Son Gathering</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Christin Dickinson, LPC-A, Licensed Professional Counseling Intern, Metrocare Services</li> </ul> <p><b><i>Mental Health Stigma in the Latino Community</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maricela Giner-Nevarez, MS, LPC-S, Director of Clinical Services, Emergence Health Network</li> </ul> <p><b><i>Occupational Therapy in Child and Adolescent Behavioral Health: Lessons from the Heart of Texas</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Veronica Guardiola, OTD, OTR/L, Occupational Therapist, Heart of Texas Behavioral Health Network</li> </ul>

<p><b>8:30 – 10:00 a.m.</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>General Session:</b> Featured Panel Presentation Special Guest Speaker: HHSC Executive Commissioner Stephanie Muth</p>
<p><b>10:30 a.m. – Noon</b></p>	<p align="center"><b><u>Concurrent Sessions</u></b></p> <p><b><i>Autism in Criminal Justice Settings</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anne Jackson, JD, Assistant County Attorney, Bell County Attorney's Office</li> <li>• Tres Jackson, Registered Behavioral Technician, Central Texas Behavioral Solutions</li> </ul> <p><b><i>Building the First Multidisciplinary Peer Support Team After the Kerrville Flood</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Andrew Estrada, BAAS, MPA, Vice President of Crisis Response Services, Center for Health Care Services</li> <li>• Janet Garcia, MSW, BSW, LCSW-S, Clinic Administrator, Crisis Response Services, Center for Health Care Services</li> <li>• Kellie Burnam, Licensed Paramedic, Division Director, Southwest Texas Crisis Collaborative, Southwest Texas Regional Advisory Council (STRAC)</li> <li>• Walter Ball, Licensed Paramedic, Assistant Fire Chief, Boerne Fire Department</li> </ul> <p><b><i>Culture by Design: How Gulf Coast Center Brought Just-in-Time Psychiatry Scheduling to Life</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• M. Renee Valdez, MD, PhD, MS, Chief Medical Officer, Gulf Coast Center</li> <li>• Felicia Jeffery, MA, LPC, Chief Executive Officer, Gulf Coast Center</li> <li>• Sarah Holt, RN, Chief Nursing Officer, Gulf Coast Center</li> <li>• Devon Stanley, PhD, MS, Chief Informatics Officer, Gulf Coast Center</li> </ul> <p><b><i>Financial Innovation for Local IDD Authorities in a Cost-Conscious Era</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rene Alexander, MBA, CHFP, Director of Business Operations, Metrocare</li> <li>• Carolina Lasso, QIDP, Chief Authority Officer, Metrocare</li> </ul> <p><b><i>From Silos to Synergy: Advancing Patient-Centered Systems of Care</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Laura Golden, OTR, OTD, System Director Transition and Teaming, MHMR of Tarrant County</li> <li>• Elizabeth Stasey, LPC-S, LCDC, System Director-Provide Training and Support, MHMR of Tarrant County</li> <li>• Martha Sanderford-Smith, DNP, RN, Healthcare System of Care Administrator, MHMR of Tarrant County</li> </ul> <p><b><i>Peer and Family Partner Session (TBA)</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Speakers TBA</li> </ul>

	<p><b><i>The Crystal Clear Story, Science, and Impact of Meth</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hildebrando Mireles III, PhD Candidate, LPC-S, Chief Clinical Officer, Camino Real Community Services</li> </ul> <p><b><i>Therapeutic Discord</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Joshua Cabrera, MD, Medical Director, MHMR Authority of Brazos Valley</li> </ul> <p><b><i>Transitioning from a Co-Worker to Supervisor</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Daniel Hernandez, PHR, SHRM-CP, Risk Services Training Manager, Texas Council Risk Management Fund</li> </ul>
<p><b>Noon – 1:30 p.m.</b></p>	<p>Lunch (Exhibit Hall)</p>
<p><b>1:30 – 3:00 p.m.</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Concurrent Sessions</u></b></p> <p><b><i>Bridging Gaps: Advancing Community Services Using the Sequential Intercept Model</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keisha Morris, LCDC, Chief SIM Officer, Andrews Center</li> </ul> <p><b><i>Efficiency Meets Empathy: Improving Outcomes through Treatment and Support</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Krystin Holmes, PhD, LPC-S, LMFT-S, NCC, Director, Court Services, The Harris Center for Mental Health and IDD</li> <li>• Melissa Gillis-Reid, LPC, Clinical Team Lead - FSPA, The Harris Center for Mental Health and IDD</li> </ul> <p><b><i>From Toxic to Trustworthy: Cultivating Psychologically Safe Workplaces</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jodi Olson, MEd, Leadership Program Instructor, The Harris Center for Mental Health and IDD</li> </ul> <p><b><i>Insight into the Texas Political Landscape</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carl Isett</li> <li>• Harvey Kronberg</li> <li>• Ross Ramsey</li> <li>• Moderator: Lee Johnson, MPH, Chief Executive Officer, Texas Council of Community Centers</li> </ul> <p><b><i>Relational Leadership: Trauma-Wise Principles and Coaching for Staff Engagement</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bill Hill, MBA, Strategic Initiatives Liaison, MHMR of Tarrant County</li> <li>• Leah Gilliam, MSW, LCSW, Senior Director of Trauma Wise Practices, MHMR of Tarrant County</li> <li>• Scott Watters, MS, LPC, Trauma Wise Consultant, MHMR of Tarrant County</li> </ul>

	<p><b><i>The Clinic Comes to You: Removing Barriers with Mobile Behavioral Health</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ryan McDaniel, LPC-S, Practice Administrator, Integral Care</li> <li>• Dawn McKenna, PMHNP, Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner, Integral Care</li> <li>• Chris Esparza, QMHP, Team Lead, Integral Care</li> <li>• Roman Icaro, RN, Registered Nurse, Integral Care</li> </ul> <p><b><i>The Echo of Pain: How We Carry What We Hear</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jessica Siegfried, LPC, LMFT, Behavioral Health Partnership Program Liaison, Betty Hardwick Center</li> <li>• Rocio Bickei, MA, LPC, Behavioral Health Partnership Program Liaison, Emergence Health Network</li> <li>• Brandalyn Haggerty, MS, LPC, Behavioral Health Partnership Program Liaison, The Center for Health Care Services</li> <li>• Stephanie Duer, EdD, LPC-S, Behavioral Health Partnership Program Liaison, Tri-County Behavioral Healthcare</li> <li>• David Baker, LPC-S, Behavioral Health Partnership Program Liaison, Heart of Texas Behavioral Health Network</li> </ul> <p><b><i>What if Crisis Care Didn't Start in an Emergency Room or a Jail?</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jessica Martinez, MA, LPC-S, Chief of Clinical Development, North Texas Behavioral Health Authority</li> </ul>
<p><b>3:30 – 5:00 p.m.</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Concurrent Sessions</u></b></p> <p><b><i>988 Updates and Impact in Texas</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nicole Warren, LMFT, Practice Administrator, Integral Care</li> <li>• Jennifer Battle, MSW, Vice President of Community Access and Engagement, The Harris Center for Mental Health and IDD</li> <li>• Shay Lett, MBA, System Director of Centralized Access, Crisis, and Navigation, MHMR of Tarrant County</li> <li>• Stacey Contreras, QMHP, Director of Crisis Call Center, Emergence Health Network</li> <li>• Susan Castillo, LMSW, 988 Project Director, Bluebonnet Trails Community Services</li> </ul> <p><b><i>Bridging the Divide: Supporting the Mental Health Needs of Youth with Developmental Disabilities</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Katie Mitten, LMSW, Director of Cross System Integration, Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute</li> <li>• Laura Merola, MEd, LPC, Director for Child and Family Policy, Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute</li> </ul> <p><b><i>Data-Driven Care: Integrating Research to Enhance CCBHC Care and Sustainability</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kyle Blidy, PhD, PMP, Associate Director of Research Development and Outreach, Metrocare</li> </ul>

- Erin Kaszynski, PhD, LPC-S, Associate Director of Clinical Education and Research, Metrocare

***Emergency Detention in Texas: Law, Practice, and Cross-System Coordination***

- Daniela Jimenez Chisolm, JD, Senior Staff Attorney, Texas Judicial Commission on Mental Health
- Kristi Taylor, JD, Executive Director, Texas Judicial Commission on Mental Health
- Kama Harris, JD, Director of Policy and Education, Texas Judicial Commission on Mental Health

***Formula 6: Understanding Alcohol Use Disorder – History, Harm, and Hope***

- Courtney Bearden, RN, PMHNP-BC, Director of Medical Services Administration, Bluebonnet Trails Community Services
- Jonathan Artz, MD, Assistant Medical Director, Bluebonnet Trails Community Services; Clinical Assistant Professor of Psychiatry, Texas A&M School of Medicine

***Leading from the Middle: A Proven Model for Building Measurable Leadership***

- Felicia Jeffery, MA, LPC, Chief Executive Officer, Gulf Coast Center
- Devon Stanley, DSL, PMP, Chief Information Officer, Gulf Coast Center
- Amanda Groller, MEd, LPC, Director of Innovative and Special Projects, Gulf Coast Center

***Lights, Camera, Confidence: Media and Storytelling 101***

- Danielle Pardue, Director of Business Development and Public Relations, Spindletop Center

***Strategic Stewardship: Managing Facilities for Safety, Efficiency, and Resilience***

- Wayne Hill, Director of Facilities, Spindletop Center

***Stronger Together: How Peer Support Transforms Veteran Families***

- Ashley Craig, MEd, Learning and Development Manager, Veteran Spouse Network – Institute for Military & Veteran Family Wellness at the University of Texas at Austin
- Hannah O'Brien, MSW, Program Director, Veteran Spouse Network – Institute for Military & Veteran Family Wellness at the University of Texas at Austin

***Thursday, June 11, 2026: Evening Event***

<b><i>Time</i></b>	<b><i>Activity</i></b>
<b>5:30 – 7:00 p.m.</b>	Center Party and Frank M. Adams Awards Presentation

***Friday, June 12, 2026***

<b><i>Time</i></b>	<b><i>Activity</i></b>
<b>7:30 a.m. – Noon</b>	Registration
<b>7:30 – 8:30 a.m.</b>	Continental Breakfast
<b>8:30 – 10:00 a.m.</b>	<b>General Session:</b> State Budget and Legislative Update

***Friday, June 12, 2026: Post-Conference***

<b><i>Time</i></b>	<b><i>Activity</i></b>
<b>12:30 – 1:15 p.m.</b>	Lunch (Peer Participants Only)
<b>1:30 – 4:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Peer Post-Conference Training</b>