



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

Preliminary Agenda

*Information provided is subject to change. Updated May 19, 2026.
 Continuing education credit for multiple disciplines will be provided for this event.*

Wednesday, June 10, 2026

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

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

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

Thursday, June 11, 2026

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

<p>8:30 – 10:00 a.m.</p>	<p align="center">General Session: Featured Panel Presentation Special Guest Speaker: HHSC Executive Commissioner Stephanie Muth</p>
<p>10:30 a.m. – Noon</p>	<p align="center"><u>Concurrent Sessions</u></p> <p><i>Autism in Criminal Justice Settings</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anne Jackson, JD, Assistant County Attorney, Bell County Attorney's Office • Tres Jackson, Registered Behavioral Technician, Central Texas Behavioral Solutions <p><i>Beyond a Seat at the Table: Meaningful Engagement in Planning and Network Advisory Committees (PNACs)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deanna Pape, MA, Director of Mental Health Services, Camino Real Community Services • Janet Paleo, Director of Government Relations for Recovery-Based Services, Texas Council of Community Centers • Anna Gray, MEd, MHPS, Executive Director, Prosumers International <p><i>Building the First Multidisciplinary Peer Support Team After the Kerrville Flood</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Andrew Estrada, BAAS, MPA, Vice President of Crisis Response Services, Center for Health Care Services • Janet Garcia, MSW, BSW, LCSW-S, Clinic Administrator, Crisis Response Services, Center for Health Care Services • Kellie Burnam, EMT-LP, Division Director, Peer Support Network, Texas Division of Emergency Management • Walter Ball, Licensed Paramedic, Assistant Fire Chief, Boerne Fire Department <p><i>Culture by Design: How Gulf Coast Center Brought Just-in-Time Rapid Access Psychiatry Scheduling to Life</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M. Renee Valdez, MD, PhD, MS, Chief Medical Officer, Gulf Coast Center • Felicia Jeffery, MA, LPC, Chief Executive Officer, Gulf Coast Center • Sarah Holt, BSN, RN, Chief Nursing Officer, Gulf Coast Center • Devon Stanley, PhD, MS, Chief Informatics Officer, Gulf Coast Center <p><i>Financial Innovation for Local IDD Authorities in a Cost-Conscious Era</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rene Alexander, MBA, CHFP, Director of Business Operations, Metrocare • Carolina Lasso, QIDP, Chief Authority Officer, Metrocare <p><i>From Silos to Synergy: Advancing Patient-Centered Systems of Care</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Laura Golden, OTR, OTD, System Director Transition and Teaming, MHMR of Tarrant County

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elizabeth Stasey, LPC-S, LCDC, System Director-Provide Training and Support, MHMR of Tarrant County • Martha Sanderford-Smith, DNP, RN, Healthcare System of Care Administrator, MHMR of Tarrant County <p><i>The Crystal Clear Story, Science, and Impact of Meth</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hildebrando Mireles III, PhD Candidate, LPC-S, Chief Clinical Officer, Camino Real Community Services <p><i>Therapeutic Discord</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joshua Cabrera, MD, Medical Director, MHMR Authority of Brazos Valley <p><i>Transitioning from a Co-Worker to Supervisor</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daniel Hernandez, PHR, SHRM-CP, Risk Services Training Manager, Texas Council Risk Management Fund
<p>Noon – 1:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Lunch (Exhibit Hall)</p>
<p>1:30 – 3:00 p.m.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Concurrent Sessions</u></p> <p><i>Bridging Gaps: Advancing Community Services Using the Sequential Intercept Model</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keisha Morris, LCDC, Chief SIM Officer, Andrews Center <p><i>Efficiency Meets Empathy: Improving Outcomes through Treatment and Support</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Krystin Holmes, PhD, LPC-S, LMFT-S, NCC, Director, Court Services, The Harris Center for Mental Health and IDD • Melissa Gillis-Reid, LPC, Clinical Team Lead - FSPA, The Harris Center for Mental Health and IDD <p><i>From Toxic to Trustworthy: Cultivating Psychologically Safe Workplaces</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jodi Olson, MEd, Leadership Program Instructor, The Harris Center for Mental Health and IDD <p><i>Insight into the Texas Political Landscape</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carl Isett, Consultant and Former State Representative, District 84 • Harvey Kronberg, Publisher, Quorum Report • Ross Ramsey, Consultant, Co-Founder of Texas Tribune • Moderator: Lee Johnson, MPA, Chief Executive Officer, Texas Council of Community Centers <p><i>Relational Leadership: Trauma-Wise Principles and Coaching for Staff Engagement</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bill Hill, MBA, Strategic Initiatives Liaison, MHMR of Tarrant County

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

- Laura Merola, MEd, LPC, Director for Child and Family Policy, Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute
- Tunisia Smith, LMSW, Program Supervisor for the Outpatient Behavioral Health Services for People with IDD (OBI), Integral Care

Data-Driven Care: Integrating Research to Enhance CCBHC Care and Sustainability

- Kyle Blidy, PhD, PMP, Associate Director of Research Development and Outreach, Metrocare
- Erin Kaszynski, PhD, LPC-S, Associate Director of Clinical Education and Research, Metrocare

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

- 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

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hannah O'Brien, MSW, Program Director, Veteran Spouse Network – Institute for Military & Veteran Family Wellness at the University of Texas at Austin
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Thursday, June 11, 2026: Evening Event

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

Friday, June 12, 2026

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

Friday, June 12, 2026: Post-Conference

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