A Shared Vision for Texas

Vision
All Texas children and youth have access to high quality mental health care that is family-driven, youth-guided, community-based, culturally grounded and sustainable.

Mission
To strengthen the collaboration of state and local efforts to weave mental health supports and services into seamless systems of care for children, youth and their families.

Funding for this work was made possible in part by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, SAMHSA grant number 5 U79 SM061219-04. The views expressed in this material do not necessarily reflect the official policies of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; nor does mention of trade names, commercial practices, or organizations imply endorsement by the U.S. government.
1. **Develop and strengthen leadership and support**
   State and local leaders are knowledgeable and supportive of the system of care framework and promote policies and practices that support the expansion of system of care statewide. The on-going development of a strong state and local infrastructure is key to the advancement of a state and community system of care.

2. **Enhance access to effective services and supports**
   Texas communities have a wide array of high-quality, effective, culturally and linguistically competent services and supports. Coordination of services across multiple systems, access to non-traditional services and supports, and effective youth-centered and family-driven planning processes are critical to a strong system of care.

3. **Support community development of system of care**
   Texas communities increase readiness, enhance the level of implementation and sustain the system of care framework, thereby increasing the number of children, youth and their families served through system of care practices. There have been six federally-supported system of care communities, six state-supported system of care communities and most recently three system of care expansion communities. These communities have helped inform a statewide approach to continue to grow system of care in additional Texas communities.

4. **Maximize efficient, sustainable financing strategies**
   Texas has maximized public and private funding at the federal, state and local levels to expand and sustain an effective statewide system of care. Aligning financing with system of care practices is critical to supporting infrastructure, expanding access to effective services and supports, sustainability and resource coordination.

5. **Create accountable systems**
   Stakeholders have accessible, reliable and valid data to make informed decisions at family, community and state system levels to improve child and family outcomes. Accessible data allows systems to identify needs, plan appropriately, allocate resources and evaluate activities in support of effective systems of care.
Dear Texas System of Care Leaders,

Welcome to the first statewide Texas System of Care Conference, Youth, Families, and Communities: Partnering to Change Lives! I am pleased to join you and commend you on your efforts to advance the system of care approach for children, youth and families in Texas.

We know that nearly 10 percent of children and youth in the United States will experience a serious emotional disturbance and that only half of these children and youth will receive the services they need. We also know that when children, youth and families do receive timely and effective mental health services in a comprehensive system of care, quality of life improves for the entire family. Simply put, we know that the system of care approach works — emotional and behavioral functioning improves, school attendance rates increase, grades improve, negative contacts with law enforcement decrease, and there are reductions in the need for costly out-of-home placements in psychiatric hospitals, juvenile justice settings and residential treatment centers. Using the system of care approach, states and local communities have created effective partnerships among child-serving agencies to provide a comprehensive array of coordinated evidence-based services for children, youth and their families. This multi-agency coordination leads to improved access to mental health services as children and youth may enter the system of care through any child-serving agency.

Simply put, we know that the system of care approach works.

Over the past 15 years, research in the mental health field has demonstrated that collaboration among child-serving agencies is essential to properly assess the mental health needs of children and youth and to provide evidence-based services and supports. Equally important is the effective partnership among state and local providers, agency leaders, policy makers, and children, youth
and family members who have lived experience. These partnerships, and the engagement and empowerment of youth and families, are critical to developing a system of care. In Texas, Allies Cultivating Change by Empowering Positive Transformation and the Texas Family Voice Network assist youth and family members to strengthen their voices and partner in meaningful ways with state and local child-serving agencies to build effective systems of care.

Whether you are a system of care expert with many years of experience or are learning about the system of care approach for the first time, this conference has something to offer. I urge you to identify several specific strategies and ideas that you can take back to your agency and community that will contribute toward the continued development of the Texas System of Care, such as: growing partnerships between child-serving systems; strategies to expand community outreach and connections with youth, young adults and families; developing services to prevent and treat young people who have early psychosis; and the use of the Building Bridges Initiative best practices for residential interventions. All of these strategies, and more, are vitally important to a system of care that strives to meet the mental, emotional and behavioral health needs of children, youth and families.

Thank you for your commitment to expand and sustain the system of care approach for children, youth and families in Texas. Have a great conference!

Sincerely,

Gary M. Blau, PhD
Welcome from the Texas System of Care

Dear Texas System of Care Champions,

Welcome to the 2017 Texas System of Care Conference, Youth, Families, and Communities: Partnering to Change Lives, an interagency conference for state leaders, child-serving providers, community leaders, youth and family members to learn about the components and benefits of the system of care framework, participate in networking opportunities and share best practices. The theme Youth, Families and Communities: Partnering to Change Lives highlights the collaboration among community members and child-serving agencies that is essential to building a comprehensive system of care founded on values that are enduring and that leads to positive mental health outcomes for children, youth and their families. We are exceptionally pleased to welcome Dr. Gary Blau to speak on this theme during the opening keynote address.

In the past 10 years in Texas, system of care core values have been increasingly woven into the policies and practices of state- and local-level child-serving agencies. Well-defined processes have greatly increased coordination of children’s mental health services across state agencies; communities have implemented the system of care approach; and residential treatment centers have transformed their programming by employing Building Bridges Initiative best practices. These accomplishments continue to expand across the state, and they are joined by new projects to meet the unique mental health needs of transition-age youth and of young people experiencing early psychosis, as well as their families. The partnership of state and local child-serving agencies, family members, youth and other community members is essential for the successful implementation of these projects, which improve and change the lives of the children, youth and families they serve. For this reason, the Texas System of Care team is thankful for your commitment to the system of care approach and for your participation in this conference.

The core values of the system of care approach — community-based, family-driven, youth-guided, and culturally and linguistically competent — form the foundation for the five tracks in which the conference workshops are organized. This conference also features Adriana Molina, MS, LMFT, Children’s Institute Inc. who will
provide a keynote address on new approaches for addressing traumatic events and building resiliency in children and youth. We will also hear from youth and family member panels discussing what is essential to meaningful youth and family leadership in systems of care and creating youth and family-driven systems.

The Texas System of Care team thanks our hard-working and passionate partners from the National Child Traumatic Stress Network, Via Hope, Paving the Way, Family Connection, Midland County System of Care, Texas Children Recovering From Trauma, Texas Family Voice Network, Allies Cultivating Change to Empower Positive Transformation, Children and Youth Behavioral Health Subcommittee to the Behavioral Health Advisory Committee, Texas Institute for Excellence in Mental Health at The University of Texas at Austin, the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, and Texas Health and Human Services Commission.

Thank you to conference participants for being Texas System of Care champions and enriching partnerships with youth, families, and communities to change lives.

Enjoy the conference!

Sincerely,

Lillian Stengart, MA

In Spring 2017, the Texas System of Care and the Texas Health and Human Services Commission hosted statewide Mental Health Awareness Creative Arts contests for children, youth and adults. Children and youth submitted artwork representing what mental health means to them, while adults submitted artwork illustrating the theme “The Reality: When the Best Meets the Worst.” Contest winners received prizes and their work was displayed in museums and exhibits around Austin.
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Tuesday | June 27, 2017

1:30 – 1:45 p.m.

Welcome

Lillian Stengart, MA  
*Project Director, Texas System of Care, Office of Mental Health Coordination, Texas Health and Human Services Commission*

Molly Lopez, PhD  
*Principal Investigator, Texas System of Care, Texas Institute for Excellence in Mental Health, The University of Texas at Austin*

Trina Ita, MA  
*Deputy Associate Commissioner for Mental Health Coordination, Texas Health and Human Services Commission*

1:45 – 3 p.m.

Opening Keynote Address

Youth, Families and Communities: Partnering to Change Lives

Dr. Gary Blau  
*Chief, Child, Adolescent and Family Branch, Center for Mental Health Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration*

Gary M. Blau, PhD, is a licensed clinical psychologist and is the chief of the Child, Adolescent and Family Branch at the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. He provides national leadership for children’s mental health and for creating systems of care across the United States. Before this, Blau was the bureau chief of quality management and director of mental health at the Connecticut Department of Children and Families and was the director of clinical services at the Child and Family Agency of Southeastern Connecticut Inc.

He has received many local awards, including the Pro Humanitate Literary Award, the Governor’s Service Award in Connecticut, the Phoebe Bennet Award and the Making a Difference Award presented by Connecticut’s Federation of Families for Children’s Mental Health. The governor of Connecticut also proclaimed Dec. 12, 2003, as “Dr. Gary Blau Day.” For his national work, Blau received the Outstanding Achievement Award presented by the National Association for Children’s Behavioral Health and was the recipient of the 2009 HHS Secretary’s Award for Meritorious Service. In 2011, he was the first recipient of Youth M.O.V.E., National’s Rock Star Award, now named the “Dr. Gary Blau Award.” He was also the 2013 recipient of the SAMHSA Administrator’s Award and the 2016 Department of Health and Human Services Spirit Award.
Blau has been appointed to numerous positions, including chairperson of the National Association of State Mental Health Program Director’s Division of Children, Youth and Families and clinical faculty at the Yale Child Study Center. He also has over 50 professional publications and is the editor of eight books. Blau received his Ph.D. from Auburn University in 1988.

3 – 3:30 p.m.  

**Break**

3:30 – 5 p.m.  

**Workshops**

**Youth Voice | Bridging the Gap: Opportunity and Creative Commercial Arts**

**Youth from E4**

Founded in 2009, E4 Youth is an Austin-based nonprofit organization that helps to bridge the gap between opportunity, youth and creative commercial arts careers. E4 Youth has worked directly with over 2,000 students and raised more than $1 million in cash and in-kind donations for its programs. Youth and E4 staff will share their combined experiences of preparing students for careers in the fields of creative arts, technology and entrepreneurship. Presenters will discuss the projects they created, what steps were taken to ensure success and lessons learned for future projects.

**Family Voice | Families and Agencies Partnering at Every Level of System of Care**

**Gail Cormier**  
*Executive Director, North Carolina Families United*

Learn how full collaboration benefits families, youth and agencies. During eight grant cycles in North Carolina to promote system of care, program staff learned that when families and youth participate in developing services for their community, families in need benefit. Having family members as full partners at all levels has now become standard practice. Cross-system trainings, grant co-management, shared financial risks, planning and benefits are all equally shared. Learn how the state family-run organization, the NC division of health and human services and the state collaborative partnered, including the roles of families and youth at all levels and the pitfalls team leaders had to overcome.

**Community-Based Services and Supports | Coordinated Specialty Care: Get with the Program**

**Warren Stewart, MA**  
*Program Specialist, Behavioral Health Services, Texas Health and Human Services Commission*
Debbie Cohen, PhD  
Lead Evaluator, Texas System of Care, Texas Institute for Excellence in Mental Health, The University of Texas at Austin

Chelsea Keyt, LCSW-S  
Team Lead, Coordinated Specialty Care Program, Integral Care

April Macakanja, MS, LPC-S  
Team Lead, Coordinated Specialty Care Program, The Harris Center

Learn about coordinated specialty care, training and the relevance of early onset psychosis. The presenters and panelist will discuss all of those questions and more as they explore what it took to create and evaluate coordinated specialty care programs over the past three years here in Texas.

Cultural and Linguistic Competency | Mistreatment and Misunderstandings: Cultural Competence in Multi-Cultural Settings

Lorena German  
The Multicultural Classroom

“I remember being mistreated as a student and member of my predominantly Latin and immigrant community ... These experiences occurred in the classroom, hospitals and other public spaces. They impacted the rest of my life in direct and indirect ways.”

This presentation will use autobiographical anecdotes to promote cultural competency as an intentional act of understanding and appropriately responding to cultural variables in an interaction. Culturally relevant classrooms and communities occur when educators and other youth-serving providers recognize the humanity in the people they serve, demonstrate cultural competence, are socio-politically aware and are willing to acknowledge and critique inequity.

System of Care 101 | Sustaining Core Leadership in Dallas

Rochelle Schutte, MA, NCC, LPC  
Child and Adolescent Intensive and Outpatient Services Manager, Metrocare Services, Dallas

Dallas CAN Be — formerly the Dallas County System of Care — started with community leaders from Metrocare Services, CPS, Dallas County Juvenile Department and Parkland Health and Hospital System. Developing relationships with community partners takes time, effort and persistence.
Once relationships are established, sustaining relationships and developing partnerships requires common goals and commitment. Learn how Dallas CAN Be has been able to sustain a core group of leaders since April 2015.

5 – 7 p.m.

**Networking Reception**

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### Wednesday | June 28, 2017

#### 8:30 – 10 a.m.

**Keynote Address**

**Community Violence and Community Solutions – The Case for Trauma Informed Care**

Adriana Molina, MS, LMFT

Adriana E. Molina, MS, LMFT has spent over 20 years working with at-risk children and families coping with AIDS, extreme poverty, domestic violence, gang involvement and child abuse and neglect. Molina is the director of social marketing and violence prevention for Project ABC at Children’s Institute Inc. and works to educate the community and stakeholders about early childhood mental health and creating system of care communities.

#### 10 – 10:30 a.m.

**Break**

#### 10:30 a.m. – noon

**Workshops**

**Youth Voice | Adaptive Planning: What Could Go Wrong**

Megyn Ramirez  
*Senior at Chilton High School*

David McClung, MSW, MDiv  
*Youth Engagement Specialist, Texas System of Care, Texas Institute for Excellence in Mental Health*

Using youth-adult partnerships and youth-driven principles requires additional levels of planning and preparation. When projects take longer to develop or are not as successful in their initial attempts, agencies and youth-serving professionals may grow frustrated. In this interactive presentation, participants will gain adaptive leadership tools for youth engagement efforts and hear the story of one youth’s community project.
10:30 a.m. – noon

**Family Voice | Family–Provider Partnership: The Key to Empowering Family Leadership**

Kay Barkin, APR
Fellow PRSA, Director of Sustainability and Communications, Paving the Way

Valencia Gensollen
Certified Family Partner, Family Connection of Tarrant County

Shequita Burrell
Family Engagement Coordinator for Tarrant County Juvenile Services

When providers include family leaders in mental health care, they empower family voices. Family Connection, a partnership with the local system of care in Tarrant County, linked family leaders at a community level with providers. The family leaders became empowered to move beyond their immediate family challenges and become system change agents on various levels. Presenters will explain the parent-provider partnership, including struggles and successes.

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**Community-Based Services and Supports | Implementing Building Bridges Initiative Principles in Texas RTCs**

Jason Drake, LCSW, LCCA
Executive Director, Krause Children’s Center

Amanda Martin, PhD, LMFT-S, LPC, LCCA
Clinical Director, Krause Children’s Center

Monica Jones
Program Director, Krause Children’s Center

Sandra Flores, MEd
Principal, Krause Children’s Center

Shelley Evans, LPC-S
Clinical Program Manager, Krause Children’s Center

Amanda Calderon
Youth

Ana Calderon
Amanda’s adoptive mother

Carlos Calderon,
Amanda’s adoptive father

Sherri Adair Hammack, BS
National Coordinator, Building Bridges Initiative

For nine months, the Krause Children’s Center’s participated in the Building Bridges Initiative pilot project. Learn BBI’s principles and how Krause focused on restraint reduction and becoming a more youth- and family-driven treatment facility. The presentation will cover the steps taken to reach these goals, outcome data, future goals and the operational plan along with
recommendations and setbacks. A panel discussion at the end will discuss strengths and weaknesses of the model’s implementation.

**Cultural and Linguistic Competency | Equity in Practice: Engaging Families and Youth in a Culturally Competent Manner**

**Lauren Lluveras, JD**  
*Regional Equity and Inclusion Specialist, Center for the Elimination of Disproportionality and Disparities, Texas Health and Human Services Commission*

Gain an understanding of the language used to describe racial inequities, as well as the racial inequities in Texas institutions. Learn to identify and confront personal bias and systemic inequities and develop leadership skills to implement equity. This session will explore the relationship between personal biases and the ability to provide culturally competent services, as well as the relationship between individual provider practices and inequitable practices at the institutional level.

**System of Care 101 | Responding to Violence: Community Conversations as a Pathway to Trauma-Informed Care**

**Adriana Molina, MS, LMFT**  
*Children’s Institute Inc.*  
**Marisol Acosta, MEd, LPC-S**  
*Project Director, Texas Children Recovering From Trauma Initiative, Behavioral Health Services, Texas Health and Human Services Commission*

Learn what it means to be trauma-informed in the community. Having up-to-date, evidence-based therapeutic models and training is not enough. Trauma-informed care is a community conversation. Integrating system of care principles and values with trauma-informed care and treatment depends on social determinants: what the community looks like, gaps in service availability, how stigma and racism affect access to care and opportunities to foster resilience. Identify current challenges in your community and a structure for sharing power and providing effective interventions.

**Noon – 1:30 p.m.**  
**Lunch on your own**  
**1:30 – 3 p.m.**  
**Keynote Family Panel**

**Valencia Gensollen, Verlyn Johnson, Veronica Martinez and Shea Meadows**  
**Facilitator: Barbara Granger, CFP**  
*Family Coordinator, Via Hope, Family Involvement Specialist, Texas System of Care*
Valencia Gensollen is a mother of two girls ages 6 and 12, one of whom struggles with mental health challenges. In Fort Worth, Gensollen serves on local and state advisory committees. With other parents, Gensollen helped start Family Connection of Tarrant County, a parent-run organization that raises awareness and educates communities to change the stigma around children’s mental health. Gensollen is a member of the Texas Family Voice Network, promoting family voice and family leadership across the state.

Verlyn Johnson works for Klaras Center for Families in Waco as a certified family partner who has raised children with mental health concerns and is now raising six grandchildren, five of whom have a mental health diagnosis. Johnson advocates for families, helping them navigate educational systems, and participates on state committees, helping change policies for the families she serves. She is also the parent representative for Waco for the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services; she engages with parents involved in CPS to help them navigate the process. Johnson facilitates a monthly parent support group for these parents, and she serves on the statewide Parent Collaboration Group, which considers CPS policy changes to help families achieve better outcomes.

Veronica Martinez has two children, one of whom has special needs, which led her to found the Better Beehive Project LLC., a web application that empowers people with disabilities and prompts local businesses and institutions to make accessibility, empowerment and inclusion for all abilities a priority. Martinez is a certified family partner with experience as a parent liaison for Travis County’s The Children’s Partnership. She is a board member for The Children’s Partnership, Texas Family Voice Network and Austin Hispanic Hackers, and she is on the state advisory committee for Project LAUNCH and a contributing writer to a SAMHSA-funded workbook on family leadership.

Shea Meadows is the mother of two children with a mental health diagnosis. She is a certified family partner and contract trainer for Via Hope. Meadows is the chair for the Via Hope CFP Advisory Council. She has been a family partner for The Harris Center for Mental Health and IDD in Harris County since February of 2005. Meadows was among the first Family Partners for the state and has mentored other certified family partners. She has supported families across many settings such as community, school, juvenile justice and CPS.

Barbara Granger is family leadership coordinator with Via Hope, facilitating best practices in family leadership development and family peer support as well as the certification process and workforce development trainings. She serves as family involvement specialist with Texas System of Care, helping communities identify and cultivate strong partnerships between families and systems. Over 12 years of advocacy work, Granger has helped several states transform children’s mental health to be more family- and youth-driven. She serves with and on behalf of children with emotional
and behavioral mental health challenges. Granger has a Bachelor of Arts in elementary education.

3 – 3:15 p.m.  
**Break**

3:15 – 4:45 p.m.  
**Workshops**

**Youth Voice | Peering In: Experience of a Young Adult Peer**

**Darrion Border**  
*Peer Support Specialist, Lifeworks, Austin, TX*

Peer support is a recovery-based approach in which people in recovery from substance use or who have received mental health services use their lived experience to support others who are receiving services. In this presentation, a young adult peer support specialist will share his experiences, including a discussion on how lived experience informs the work of peers, challenges and successes of his work, and future opportunities for youth peer support in Texas.

**Family Voice | System Changers! Empowering Families at the System Level**

**Brenda Konradi, MS**  
*Executive Director, One Community One Family Inc.*  
**Kathy Riley**  
*Family Advocacy Manager, One Community One Family Inc.*

Authentic family voice and involvement at the system level is crucial to creating, developing and sustaining systems of care. This presentation will share successes and lessons learned from an 11-year, multi-county system of care program in rural Indiana. Through examples and practical grassroots strategies, the presentation will cover effective recruitment and retention of family members and how to ensure authentic roles for family members. A family member will share her journey from being a “problem” parent to a respected state level leader and the local system of care coordinator will share unintended successes and how family involvement supports sustainability and shifts provider values and policy.

**Community-Based Services and Supports | Bridging the Gap with Learning Communities: Finding the Right Evidence-Based Practice for Your Community**

**Kay Barkin, APR**  
*Fellow PRSA, Director of Sustainability and Communications, Paving the Way*
Carolyn Hanke  
*Director of Community Partnerships, Millwood Hospital and The Excel Center of Fort Worth*

In 2007, Mental Health Connection of Tarrant County held the first of five “Bridging the Gap” symposiums to bridge gaps between practice, policy and research, featuring nationally renowned speakers on the implementation of evidence-based practices and system transformation. After the symposium, MHC found over 20 volunteers to participate in six facilitated Learning Communities, each charged with determining an evidence-based practice to meet the needs of Tarrant County. Topics ranged from trauma to externalizing and internalizing disorders to addiction and prevention. After six months, each area provided recommendations, most of which have been implemented, leading to even more training in evidence-based practices. This presentation will describe the planning and processes used in developing the Learning Communities, including details of the trauma and post-traumatic stress disorder group’s work and the training that resulted.

**Cultural and Linguistic Competency | Gender Identity: Terminology, Development and Understanding**

*Jose Jimenez, LCDC, LPC-I*  
*Grace Counseling Center*

Only recently have sex and gender been considered separate concepts. Sex is based on the physical characteristics of our bodies at birth and has been thought of as “biological.” Gender is related to our social interactions and the roles we take on. However, numerous factors influence and comprise our gender identity: our backgrounds, culture, location, peer or adult influence, socioeconomic status and the media. To aid clients in exploring their unique development, learn more about the terminology associated with gender identity, developmental theories of gender identity and understanding of what it means to be “gendered” in our world today.

**System of Care 101 | Better Together**

*Gabrielle Paulo*  
*Community Coordinator, Midland County System of Care*

*Amanda Britton, LPC*  
*Probation Program Director, Midland County Juvenile Probation*

Hear a brief overview of how a partnership between a system of care community and the local juvenile justice department is beneficial and needed. This presentation will cover case plans, case management techniques and funding sources, as well as plans for partnership improvement and expansion.
8:30 – 10 a.m.  

**Workshops**

**Youth Voice | Adolescent Substance Abuse: Engage the Youth to Save the Youth**

**Nigel Cunningham-Williams**  
*Recovery Coach, San Antonio*

**Rise Recovery Youth**

Youth and young adults who have lived experience of substance use are uniquely equipped to help other youth in their recovery. In this interactive presentation, youth from San Antonio will share information related to the challenges that young people may encounter around substance use, the types of supports they have found helpful and approaches for working with youth in recovery.

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**Family Voice | Engaging Parents**

**De Shaun Ealoms, MEd**  
*Parent Program Specialist, Child Protective Services, Texas Department of Family and Protective Services*

Learn more about the statewide parent collaboration group and regional parent support groups. Gain information about the role of parent liaisons and how support systems can benefit parents with open CPS cases or who are at risk in CPS litigation.

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**Community-Based Services and Supports | Collaborative Family Engagement: Supporting Healing through Relationship for Children and Youth in the Foster Care System**

**Cathy Cockerham**  
*Liaison for Program Development, Texas CASA*

**Candice Dosman**  
*Collaborative Family Engagement Manager, Texas CASA*

Research shows healing from trauma best occurs in positive and safe relationships — preferably relationships that can last a lifetime. Learn about Collaborative Family Engagement, Texas’ model of Family Finding that creates lifetime networks for children and youth in the foster care system using a trauma-informed lens. Professionals working with children and families have a unique and important role in honoring and strengthening relationships for their clients and, in this workshop, will be able to add tools to their case management and practice toolbox.
Cultural and Linguistic Competency | Cultural Humility: Having Difficult Dialogues Across Difference

Shane Whalley, LMSW  
* Daring Dialogues Consulting*

Cultural competency can sometimes seem like a secret checklist that describes how to treat someone of a certain identity group. This workshop will discuss how to go deeper and acknowledge systems of oppression in our work. See how identities play out in conversations and how to navigate these differences, especially when the impact of conversation is different than the intention. Learn how to find the language people use for their identities, instead of what others think is correct, and take more risks to have more authentic conversations with people.

System of Care 101 | Building a Strong Foundation for the Future: System of Care Infrastructure and Sustainability

Brenda Konradi, MS  
* Executive Director, One Community One Family Inc.*  

Kathy Riley  
* Family Advocacy Manager, One Community One Family Inc.*

The importance of building a strong, highly functioning system of care infrastructure that focuses on the system level is key to sustaining and improving efforts at the service level. This workshop will focus on the importance of and key considerations in building the system of care infrastructure and governance. Join the discussion on the “who, what, where, when, why and how” of building this infrastructure. Hear strategies and lessons from a system of care coordinator with over 10 years of experience in the local system level in a rural multi-county area of Indiana. The perspective of a family member who is active in both local and state system of care governance will also be shared.

10 – 10:30 a.m.  
**Break**

10:30 a.m. – noon.  
**Closing Keynote Youth Panel**

Darrion Border, Megyn Ramirez, Nigel Cunningham-Williams  
**Facilitator: David McClung, MSW, MDiv**  
*Youth Engagement Specialist, Texas System of Care, Texas Institute for Excellence in Mental Health*

**Darrion Border,** from Austin, experienced homelessness and addiction at an early age. In the community, he engaged with peers and other leaders by promoting community leadership, responsibility and social change through hip hop. Border has worked with Cipher-Austin Hip Hop Project peers to
create, produce and publish two albums: “From Soldiers to Warriors” and “Lyrical Lessons.” He has performed in the Austin area, worked with the City of Austin Health and Human Services on HIV and STD prevention, and created opportunities for young artists to raise awareness about issues in their community. Border works as a peer support specialist at Lifeworks and hopes to continue his education and work in music or video production with a positive youth focus.

**Megyn Ramirez** is a senior at Chilton High School where she is a member of Family Care and Community Leaders of America and Allies Cultivating Change by Empowering Positive Transformation. Last year, she brought a project to FCCLA National in San Diego. Ramirez also helps to run Harmless, a high school group that promotes a safe environment for youth to talk about topics related to mental health and issues facing students.

**Nigel Cunningham-Williams** is a recovery coach in San Antonio, where he works with families and adolescents ages 13-21 to help them live a life that makes them happy, joyous and free. He helps them find the desire and tools to change their lives for the better and see how far they have come in their recovery from substance use. Cunningham-Williams is a member of ACCEPT and also serves on the National Spokesperson Bureau for the Campaign for Youth Justice.

**David McClung** is a youth engagement specialist with the Texas Institute for Excellence in Mental Health at the University of Texas at Austin, where he helps to support youth-serving organizations in building youth-adult partnerships. McClung holds Master of Social Work and Master of Divinity degrees from Baylor University and is pursuing a PhD in social work at Baylor. His experience includes work in juvenile justice, mental health, residential treatment, education, hospital chaplaincy, faith communities and community-based settings. McClung also serves as a board member for Youth M.O.V.E. National and is a member of the National Advisory Caucus for the Star Center. His research interests include congregations and mental health, natural support systems in community development and participatory research.
**Presenter Biographies**

**Marisol Acosta** is the project director of the Texas Children Recovering From Trauma Initiative. She serves as the expert for the Behavioral Health Services on Trauma-Informed Care and the Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths Assessment. Acosta worked on the CMH service delivery redesign and participated in the development of all Texas CANS versions and leads the trauma-informed care transformation initiative of HHSC. She holds a master’s degree in counseling from the University of Houston and a graduate certificate from Harvard University and the Ministry of Health in Italy on global mental health: trauma and recovery.

**Kay Barkin, APR**, fellow PRSA, has served as social marketer for three systems of care grants in Tarrant and surrounding counties. Today, she is director of sustainability and communications for Paving the Way, which focuses on transition-age youth, and she helped plan the Bridging the Gap symposiums. She is the parent of a child with mental health issues and, in that capacity, served on one of the learning communities. Barkin also helped implement the evidence-based training that resulted.

**Amanda Britton** is a licensed professional counselor with experience working with both adults and children in traditional counseling and psychiatric wards, as well as in the Juvenile Justice Department.

**Shequita L. Burrell** received her Bachelor of Arts degree in criminal justice from the University of Alabama and has been in this field for 14 years. As the family engagement coordinator for Tarrant County Juvenile Services, she coordinates a diversionary program where she works with families and students who are enrolled in Fort Worth ISD’s elementary alternative school program. Burrell provides advocacy, resources, support and mentoring and addresses families’ needs in order to eliminate barriers to students’ success. She is a certified family partner, a member of Family Connection and Texas Family Voice Network and previously served on The Potter’s House of Fort Worth Firehouse Youth Leadership team.

**Amanda Calderon**, 17, attended Krause Children’s Center for five months. Calderon was adopted at age five and has bipolar disorder.

**Ana Calderon** is Amanda’s adoptive mother and has been an accountant for 20 years. **Carlos Calderon** is Amanda’s adoptive father and has been a licensed professional counselor for 17 years. Carlos and Ana have been married 19 years and have seven children, six of whom are adopted and one who is their biological child.

**Cathy Cockerham** works with local Court Appointed Special Advocates programs, boards, staff and unserved communities to expand CASA efforts in Texas and enhance CASA advocacy for children. A graduate of the University of Texas with a degree in education, Cockerham began a CASA career in 1986 as a volunteer and became program director for CASA of Travis County in 1989. In 1999,
Cockerham joined Texas CASA and used her years of experience to strengthen family engagement and relational trauma interventions that support resiliency and healing.

Gail M. Cormier is the executive director of North Carolina Families United, where she is charged with partnering with national, state and local policy leaders to ensure family, children and youth are represented at all levels of creating and implementing policies concerning the health of North Carolina families and children. Cormier oversees personnel development within the family organization, business management and technical assistance for family organizations throughout the state of North Carolina to help sustain and grow families in decision-making roles and supporting parent peers. Cormier earned a master’s degree in rehabilitation psychology and a Bachelor of Science in psychology.

Deborah Cohen, PhD, MSW, worked with the original RA1SE (Recovery After an Initial Schizophrenia Episode) project that has been an impetus to much of the coordinated specialty care work done in the past five years.

Candice Dosman is an international expert and leader in the field of family finding and engagement, with a career spent working in child protection. Dosman leads Texas’ statewide implementation of collaborative family engagement, a joint initiative between Child Protective Services and Texas CASA. Dosman is a member of the Ontario College of Social Workers and holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in criminology and is completing her Masters of Social Work.

Jason Drake, LCSW, LCCA, is the executive director of the Krause Children’s Center. He has worked exclusively with adolescents and their families for the past 18 years. He has nine years experience working in both private pay and nonprofit residential treatment centers in clinical and administrative capacities.

De Shaun Ealoms is the parent program specialist for Child Protective Services, Texas Department of Family and Protective Services. Ealoms participates in program planning, development and implementation of parent support activities across the state. She facilitates the statewide parent collaboration group and provides technical assistance to the CPS regions across Texas with regional parent information and support groups for parents involved with the CPS system. Ealoms holds a Master of Education degree.

Shelley Evans, LPC-S, is the clinical program manager at Krause Children’s Center. She is a licensed professional counselor supervisor. Evans has over 10 years working with youth in foster care and with mental health issues, and she utilizes trauma-focused cognitive behavior therapy with youth and their families. Her insight into the different levels of systems of care helps her contribute to the Krause team.

Sandra Flores, MED, holds a bachelor’s degree in education from the University of Houston and a master’s in education administration from Sam Houston University. She has been in education for 17 years and a school administrator for 11 years. At the Krause Children’s Center, Flores works with young women to break the cycle of abuse and reclaim their lives through hard work and completing their education.
Lorena Germán is an educator working with young people in Austin. She has been published by the National Council of Teachers of English, the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, EdWeek and others. She is a two-time nationally awarded teacher and co-founder of The Multicultural Classroom, an organization that seeks to support educators and public servants in the area of cultural competency.

Sherri Adair Hammack has more than 38 years of experience in health and human services at the national, state and community level, especially in the area of systems transformation. Before serving as the national coordinator for the Building Bridges Initiative, Hammack was the state lead for collaborative statewide children’s initiatives: the Texas system of care initiative and the statewide community resource coordination groups of Texas. She has served as a principle investigator for several federal grants focused on children’s behavioral health and trauma-informed care and treatment, including restraint and seclusion reduction in state psychiatric hospitals in Texas. Hammack earned a bachelor’s degree in psychology from Texas Woman’s University and a teacher’s secondary education certification at Texas State University.

Carolyn Hanke served as champion for the trauma and PTSD learning community and also championed the implementation committee that executed the evidence-based practice recommended for the community. Hanke has been the director of community partnerships representing Millwood Hospital and The Excel Center of Fort Worth for 13 years. She also works with school districts using restorative practices to develop support plans for students when they return to their school after treatment.

Jose Jimenez is a licensed chemical dependency counselor and a licensed professional counselor intern supervised by Cheryl Rayl, M.S., LPC-S. He earned his master’s degree in counseling from the University of North Texas at Dallas and is a qualified substance abuse professional. He empowers clients through a holistic approach to wellness, enabling them to work towards a more complete, authentic self and achieve their life goals. Jimenez has experience counseling children, adolescents, adults, groups and various minority populations such as the LGBTQ community. Through cognitive behavior therapy and additional counseling techniques tailored toward each client’s individual need, Jimenez supports clients in a safe and accepting environment where they gain tools to manage, cope with and work on life issues, including mental and emotional illness. He is interested in substance use disorders and dependency, anxiety, depression, anger, grief, trauma, self-harm, self-esteem issues, gender identity and LGBTQ challenges.

Monica Jones is the program director of Krause Children’s Center. She has over nine years of experience working in residential treatment centers and with adolescents. She is a dynamic trainer in providing instruction in verbal de-escalation and team building.

Chelsea Keyt, LCSW-S, is the team lead of the coordinated specialty care program at Integral Care.

Brenda Konradi, MS, is the executive director of One Community One Family Inc., a nonprofit agency born from a SAMHSA system of care grant with the mission of continually improving the system of care in Southeastern Indiana. Konradi has over 11 years of experience in system of community based human services. She currently serves as the President of the Indiana System of Care Coalition.
care work including six years as the project director for a SAMHSA system of care cooperative agreement. She has served on SAMHSA CMHS Services Evaluation Committee and the National Children’s Mental Health Awareness Campaign Resource Group.

Lauren Lluveras is a regional equity and inclusion specialist at the Center for the Elimination of Disproportionality and Disparities. Lluveras’ previous positions included conducting investigations in Texas’ child welfare system and serving Texas communities as a law clerk with the Texas Advocacy Project, Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid and the Center for Legal and Social Justice. Lluveras holds a law degree from St. Mary’s University School of Law and a Bachelor of Arts degree from Texas A&M University.

April Macakanja, MS, LPC-S, is the team lead of the CSC program at The Harris Center.

Amanda Martin, PhD, LMFT-S, LPC, LCCA, is the clinical director at Krause Children's Center. She has a PhD in family therapy and is a licensed marriage and family therapist supervisor, licensed professional counselor and licensed childcare administrator. She has worked with children and families with trauma for the past 11 years. She has experience working in residential treatment centers and private practice settings.

Gabrielle Paulo is a certified educator with experience working in Title 1 schools as well as with the system of care.

Kathy Riley is the family advocacy manager for One Community One Family Inc. Riley is the mother of a young man with serious mental illness. She has over 20 years of experience in advocating for her son and has been involved with local system of care efforts in Southeastern Indiana for 11 years. Initially, Riley served on the local system of care governance board before implementing parent support groups and joining the staff of One Community One Family Inc.

Rochelle Schutte MA, NCC, LPC, is the child and adolescent intensive and outpatient services manager at Metrocare Services in Dallas. She has been a licensed professional counselor for almost 12 years. She was employed at a Federally Qualified Health Center in Missouri for 12 years and was the manager for intensive community-based services for high-risk youth. Schutte has an extensive background in the wraparound process, system of care, and managing intensive services for children, youth and families.

Warren Stewart holds a Master of Arts in counseling from St. Edward’s University and has been involved with the development of all Texas coordinated specialty care programs beginning in 2014.

Shane Whalley, LMSW, is a social justice educator and consultant who facilitates workshops on LGBTQ identities, social justice frameworks and cultural humility. Ze* earned a Master’s in Social Work at The University of Texas and is now an adjunct faculty member at the School of Social Work. Whalley was previously the education coordinator for the Gender and Sexuality Center at UT and worked as a psychotherapist in several nonprofits in Austin.

*Ze is a gender-neutral pronoun used instead of he or she.
Nearby restaurants:

- Amaya’s Tacos
- Applebee’s
- Buffalo Wild Wings
- Burger King
- Chili’s
- Denny’s
- Café Mueller (HEB)
- Ihop
- Sushi Japon
- McDonald’s
- Pappadeaux Seafood Kitchen
- Pappasito’s Cantina
- Quiznos
- Red Lobster
- Texas Land and Cattle
- Thundercloud Subs
- Wendy’s
Thank you
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