



Better Together!

**Region 2 and Region 3 Parent Center
Conference**

August 8-10, 2017

Hyatt Regency – Austin, Texas

Tuesday
August 8, 2017

8:00 – 9:00

Texas Foyer
West Registration

9:00 – 10:00

Texas 1 **Welcome**

Join your Region 2 and 3 PTAC staff along with our Parent Centers in Texas to say hello to each other.

10:00 – 11:45

Texas 1 **National Updates and Panel Discussion**
Kori Hamilton, Tery Medina, Rorie Fitzpatrick and Eric Jacobson

Join National Experts to hear about trends and updates in health, education, and equity and how they impact our work with our families.

12:00 – 1:30

Texas 1 **Lunch and Learn: Get to Know NCSI**
Rorie Fitzpatrick

Come and learn about the National Center for Systemic Improvement and how their work compliments ours!

1:45-5:00

Texas 5 **Top Ten Fiscal Horror Stories: Policies That Can Protect Your Agency**
Glenda Hicks

Fiscal Management doesn't have to be like a Stephen King movie! Come hear about simple policies and procedures you should have in place in your Centers to make sure that your financials look more like Lassie and a lot less like Cujo.

Texas 3 **Managing Remote Employees - Out of Sight is Not Out of Mind!**
Joyce Chastain

Learn the “do’s” and “don’ts” of managing remote employees. Overcoming the unique challenges of managing remote employees will increase productivity and improve morale of both your remote and your local employees, resulting in a cohesive, high-functioning team. By implementing the information shared in this session, leaders can take advantage of remote employment opportunities to attract high-performing talent and reduce overhead costs—a huge win for today’s organizations.

Tuesday August 8, 2017

1:45-5:00 continued

Texas 1

Navigating Through Rough Education Waters *Tery Medina and Kori Hamilton*

The education system can be difficult for families to navigate. Between the overuse of “educationese,” seemingly unnecessary bureaucratic red tape, and now, a growing climate of fear and hate speak, it is important that families and educators be prepared and armed with the skills to support healthy learning environments for our most vulnerable students. This interactive session is designed to frame some of the many challenges that families face in this current education climate, and to provide tools for those supporting families as they steer through the difficult waters of education. This session is intended to build the participants’ capacity to better serve modern, diverse families.

Texas 2

Meeting the Extra Special Needs of Foster, Adoptive, and Kinship Families *Kelly Henderson, Whitney Emerson and Jena Martin*

Families raising children and youth through adoption, foster care, and kinship (non-birth parent relatives) care often face extraordinary challenges. The session will highlight strategies for assisting families dealing with multiple child-serving systems, traumatic stress, and frequent disruption to school and home placements, among other issues. New ESSA provisions impacting children in foster care will also be covered.

Wednesday August 9, 2017

7:00 – 8:15

TBA

R2 CPIR Evaluation Focus Group, by invitation only
Pat Mueller

Wednesday August 9, 2017

8:30 – 11:45

Texas 2

Motivating Your Board to Fundraise *Glenda Hicks and Mary Jacob*

Shifting from an organization that relies on federal funding to one that creatively diversifies funds takes a great deal of planning and hard work. Learn about (and brainstorm your own) key elements to consider as you work with your Board of Directors and your staff to create enthusiasm and engage them in fundraising efforts. Consider the infrastructure needs and supports that you have to address if you want to be successful, such as staffing, time commitment, timelines, and more.

Texas 5

Strategies for Having Tough Conversations with Difficult Employees *Joyce Chastain*

Ask any organizational leader and they will tell you that performance matters. Unfortunately, sometimes employees stray so far from acceptable standards, that it becomes necessary to document a way back to satisfactory performance. In this training session, attendees will be provided guidelines for effective corrective action plans. In order for such plans to be followed, they must first be communicated in a manner that is forthright and understood. These conversations are most often challenging ones. Attendees will learn strategies for effective delivery of any information, but most importantly how to have the difficult conversation, how to deal with performance or behavioral issues and how to work more collaboratively with their team.

Texas 3

Using Infographics to Tell Your Center Story *Joanne Cashman, Misty Goosen, Patrice Linehan and Jana Rosborough*

Infographics are a prevalent form of marketing that grab attention and communicate complex information in user-friendly ways. These “web-based posters” can provide a visually pleasing narrative that includes pictures/icons, a smattering of data, and limited words. They can be used to illustrate and simplify steps in a process, keep others up to date on initiatives, and bring awareness to new topics that your Center wants to convey to others. In this session, we will move beyond “marketing and PR” to describe how you can work with stakeholders to co-create infographics as a way to deepen engagement and set the stage for working together on important issues. Join us to learn how to use infographics as a strategy to share your Center story more broadly to improve positive outcomes for children and families.

Wednesday August 9, 2017

8:30 – 11:45 continued

Texas 1

Transition from Early Intervention to Preschool and Beyond: Recommended Practices and Legal Foundations

Kathy Whaley

Family members and caregivers of infants, toddlers and preschool children with special needs face many transitions in their lives. The goal of all personnel working with families must be to minimize and even eliminate transition stressors, if possible. The evidence-base and overarching outcomes of effective transition are child and family preparation and adjustment. This interactive session will explore the legal foundation and recommended practices for supportive and effective transition from Part C Early Intervention Services to Preschool Special Education and on to Kindergarten. Resources and planning tools will be shared.

Texas 6

Increasing Your Impact by Being a Data Driven Organization (with Salesforce)

Aimee Heintz and Larissa Neale

Shopping around for a new database? Want to know if the solution that works for more than 25,000 nonprofits could be right for you? Join Larissa and Aimee of Sputnik Moment, creators of the Connected Families data management solution, to learn how your organization could centralize and streamline your data. Hear from current Connected Families Parent Centers on how switching to the cloud has made the task of data management more bearable (and how they can get their data form numbers with the click of a button!). Presenters will also be providing individual consultations to talk about your specific needs and how Connected Families could work for you.

12:00 – 12:30

Texas 1

What's New At CPIR?

Debra Jennings

Come learn all the new resources and tools available from your Center for Parent Information and Resources!

12:30 – 1:30

Texas 1

Lunch and Learn: Table Top Planning of Upcoming Activities with your PTACs

Wednesday August 9, 2017

1:45-5:00

Texas 1 **Making Your Center More Parent-Friendly with Leading by Convening Tools**

***Joanne Cashman, Misty Goosen, Patrice Linehan and
Jana Rosborough***

Leaders have used the strategies, tools and learning activities in *Leading by Convening: A Blueprint for Authentic Engagement* with success across agencies, organizations, states and local settings. A range of stakeholders – including parent networks – have worked together for more than 15 years to build relationships and improve practices. This session will help you invite others into your work to learn how each of us can lead in place to improve our Centers and take collective action to change outcomes. Join us to learn how to engage others in ways that lead to unified action.

Texas 3 **Inclusion Practices for Families, Including New Resources on Inclusion and Behavior**

***Carolyn Hayer, Rene Averitt-Sanzone and Kathy
Whaley***

Inclusion is a right, not a privilege. The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act requires students with disabilities to be educated with their non-disabled peers to the maximum extent appropriate. This session will include a review of how the IEP impacts placement, the legal requirements for Least Restrictive Environment and the value of the inclusion of children with disabilities for all children, their families, and communities. Come learn concrete strategies and “how to’s” in a fun interactive environment. There will also be a sharing of a wide variety of resources available to support us in our work.

Texas 2 **Social Media: Low-Cost Tools for Effective Outreach** ***Joe LaBelle and Eliana Tardio***

We are all witnessing similar trends of shrinking in-person participation at events. To increase our reach and impact, we have developed strategies that combine social media and inter-agency collaboration. The most significant aspects of these strategies are their low cost and ease of implementation. The availability of free online streaming tools is dramatically reshaping information delivery and interaction with targeted audiences. Social media use can address the needs of diverse groups in an appropriate and affordable way. Learn how to reach families with Facebook Live, effective tweeting, telling your Center's story and getting your resources in the hands of families. Participants will also look at ways to implement a social media strategy in your Parent Center.

**Wednesday
August 9, 2017**

1:45-5:00 continued

Texas 5 **Student-Led IEP Meetings: Building Capacity for Self-Determination**

Diana Cruz

Student-led IEPs is an innovative dispute resolution practice that fits into Stage 1 of the CADRE Continuum: Prevention. Students gain greater awareness of the impacts of their disabilities and develop critical self-advocacy and problem-solving skills that help them to reach their goals, improve their academic and post-secondary outcomes, and become leaders in their own lives and futures. This interactive and engaging workshop will explore student-led IEPs and their relationship to self-determination, self-advocacy, and student engagement. Participants will share their personal experiences participating in the IEP process, and learn strategies and skills that will help students and families prepare for the process.

Texas 6 **Make Salesforce Work Harder for You - A Hands-on Session for Current Salesforce Users**

Aimee Heintz and Larissa Neale

In this interactive session, you'll learn how to harness the power of Salesforce reports and dashboards. Presenters will teach you how to use reports and dashboards not only for reporting important information to your funders, but for internal data quality management. They'll also be debuting the latest Connected Families package upgrade that will make your instance run smoothly and more efficiently. They will also spend time individually with attendees to go over any Salesforce questions you have.

5:15 – 7:00

TBA **R3 CPIR Evaluation Focus Group, by invitation only**

Jim Frazier

Thursday August 10, 2017

8:30 – 9:45

Texas 1

OSEP Updates

David Emenheiser and Julia Martin-Eile

Come and hear updates and grant reminders from your Project Officers.

10:15 – 11:15

See
Assignments

Group Alike Discussion Forums:

Board Members (with Dave Blanchard)

Lobby

R2 Project Directors (with Laura Weber)

Texas 2

R3 Project Directors (with Stephanie Moss)

Texas 1

Other Management Positions (with Debi Tucker)

Texas 1

Coordinator/Educator Staff (with Sitara Nayak)

Texas 2

11:30 – 12:30

Texas 1

Closing Keynote

Bradley Scott

12:30 – 2:30

Texas 2

The Branch Meeting, by invitation

Vicki Farnsworth

This year, we had an exceptional group help us plan this conference...

So please take a minute to give a great big

"THANK YOU"

to our Planning Committee!

Lisa Cowart, Texas

Mary Jacob, Louisiana

Jeana Winter, Alabama

Patricia Santibanez, El Paso

Jazmone Taylor, Delaware

Amy Holbert and Alisa Bentley, South Carolina

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