



Texas Parent to Parent Proudly Celebrating our 2021 Annual Statewide Parent Virtual Conference

July 16 – 17, 2021



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and education for Texas families for 19 years!



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Welcome to Texas Parent to Parent's Parent Virtual Conference

On behalf of the Staff and Board of Directors of Texas Parent to Parent, we want to welcome you to our 2021 Annual Statewide Parent Virtual Conference. We hope the training opportunities will provide you with what you need at this moment and in the future. Texas Parent to Parent is here to help in whatever way we can.

The line-up of speakers and topics is sure to help fill your toolbox of strategies and ideas. You are sure to leave encouraged and challenged, with a head-full of ideas to ponder and research. Take advantage of these engaging, knowledgeable speakers and learn all you can, and leave with a refreshed determination to create a good life for your child.

Notice of cancelled session. Please be advised that the session Disabilities and Sexuality in Spanish has been cancelled due to an unexpected conflict. We will have interpretation in Spanish for the Sexuality and Healthy Relationships session in English. We apologize for the inconvenience.

We have a great group of sponsors this year who will present a short video. If you have questions for the them – please use the chat box .

Thank you to the many people that made today possible. This is our third official “virtual” conference in this time of COVID-19. Please bear with us if there are technical difficulties.

If you would like to receive information about the next TxP2P conferences, be sure to sign up with us so that you will be on the email lists for upcoming events. Just go to [Join Our Family](#) on our home page at <https://www.txp2p.org/services/join-our-family> or call us at 866-896-6001.

Enjoy the conference!

Laura J. Warren
Co-Director
Texas Parent to Parent

Cynda Green
Pathways to Adulthood
Coordinator

2021 Annual Statewide Parent Virtual Conference

Conference Agenda

Friday, July 16

11:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Welcome Cynda Green, TxP2P / Opening Ron Lucey, Board of Directors
12:00 p.m. - 12:30 p.m.	Sponsors showcase
12:45 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.	Breakout Session 1 Begins
2:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Breakout Session 2 Begins
4:00 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.	Conference evaluations
4:15 p.m.	Closing. See you tomorrow!

Saturday, July 17

8:45 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.	Opening Cynda Green/Laura Warren, TxP2P
9:15 a.m. - 9:30 p.m.	Sponsors showcase
9:45 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.	Breakout Session 1 Begins
11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.	Breakout Session 2 Begins
1:00 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.	Conference evaluations
1:15 p.m.	Thank you for coming! See you next year!

MORNING WELCOME AND OPENING

11:45 am-12:00pm

Welcome

Join us for a welcome by Texas Parent to Parent

SPONSORS SHOWCASE

12:00 pm-12:30pm

Join us for a presentation from our wonderful sponsors!

FRIDAY, JULY 16

BREAKOUT SESSION OVERVIEW

BREAKOUT SESSION 1: 12:45 p.m. — 2:15 p.m.

- Key Steps to Special Needs Planning: How to Protect and Maximize Your Child's Future
- Special Education Following COVID-19
- Early Childhood Handbook
- The Future is Coming – Why Transition Begins Now!
- Social Security Benefits for People with Disabilities
- DADS Only
- Creative Housing Solutions
- ¡Únase a nosotros para una capacitación virtual GRATUITA para aprender sobre la defensa de la educación especial en Texas!

BREAKOUT SESSION 2: 2:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

- Planning Together for a Good Life Today & in the Future
- Sexuality and Healthy Relationships
- Mental Wellness is More Important than Ever
- Guardianship and Alternatives

- Using Person Centered Practices to Prepare for a COVID Crisis or Other Emergencies
- Manejando colapsos emocionales y rabietas

SATURDAY, JULY 17

BREAKOUT SESSION OVERVIEW

BREAKOUT SESSION 3: 9:45 a.m. — 11:15 a.m.

- Strength Based IEP's
- Personal Support Networks: Enriching Lives in the Present and Preparing for the Future
- Young Adult Voices: Insightful Perspectives on Health Care Transition
- Medicaid and Medicaid Waiver Programs
- How to Tell Your Story: "What's Your Story? Why is it Important?"
- Los beneficios del Seguro Social para las personas con discapacidad

BREAKOUT SESSION 4: 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

- Emergency Preparedness
- Early Childhood Intervention: Updates from the 87th Texas Legislature
- Parent Leadership-Serving on Groups
- The Room Where It Happens!
- Collaborating When It Feels Adversarial
- Discapacidad y sexualidad CANCELLED
- Texas ABLE Account

KEY STEPS TO SPECIAL NEEDS PLANNING: HOW TO PROTECT AND MAXIMIZE YOUR CHILD'S FUTURE

Allison Schaberg

As a parent of a child with disabilities, you may have many questions regarding the future of your family member. You may wonder how to fund future care, how to avoid costly mistakes which may jeopardize government benefits and how to make sure your child's future is the way you picture it. Join Allison as she walks you through the many steps you can take, such as preparing a Letter of Intent, understanding an ABLE account and how to get the government benefits your child deserves.

Special Education Following COVID-19

Steven Aleman

Steven will inform parents about the latest mandates and guidance in special education as public schools try to return to normal following the COVID-19 pandemic, so they are educated and able to ensure appropriate special education services for their children. He will include the rules on compensatory education services to remedy lost services during school closures over the past two school years.

Early Childhood Handbook

Alison Baucom

Tantrums, lying, sibling conflict, hitting and anxiety. Get a taste of applied behavior analysis (ABA) while learning some in-the-moment tools for responding to these common early childhood challenges in a way that strengthens more beneficial behaviors and skills.

The Future is Coming – Why Transition Begins Now!

Cindi Paschal

Do you worry about your child's future? You are not alone! But the problem is the future is COMING and it will be here before you know it! Are you ready? Is your child ready? Are you equipped with everything you need to know? Parents of children with disabilities need to start earlier and put more effort into planning for the future than parents of children who do not have a disability. As your child approaches adulthood, there are many new things to consider, decisions to be made and tools available to help you make them. Cindi will provide an overview of these topics and point you to where you can learn more. Whether your child just received a diagnosis or will turn 18 next year, the time to educate yourself and start planning for the future is NOW! It's never too early or too late to look ahead!

Social Security Benefits for People with Disabilities

Lee Alviar

Lee will provide an overview of SSA programs, benefits and eligibility for children with disabilities. She will also share information regarding alternative filing methods including online services.

DADS ONLY

Jeff Garrison-Tate & Ron Lucey

DADS Only. This is an informal chance for Dads to come together and just talk. To listen and to learn from other dads, to share great things about our kids and to discuss some of the challenges we face. As a dad, you are the expert on your child. Come by and share what you have learned from your child and what your hopes are for their future. Or just come and listen.

Creative Housing Solutions

Leah Rummel & Ashley Sanchez

Leah and Ashley will report on the steps they have taken to create independent living experiences for their young adults. You'll learn what motivated them to create an independent place, models that have worked, resources they have used and the challenges they have faced. Parent panel

¡Únase a nosotros para una capacitación GRATUITA para aprender sobre la defensa de la educación especial de Texas!

Lisa Flores

Quién: Easterseals Central Texas

En esta formación, podrá:

- Aprender cómo abogar en una reunión de ARD
- Identificar un tema prioritario y crear un plan de acción.
- Practicar compartir su historia con funcionarios electos
- Obtener información sobre cómo abogar en su distrito escolar
- Conectarse con otros defensores

Esta capacitación es apropiada para autogestores, miembros de la familia y otros. ¡No se requiere experiencia previa en abogacía! Si tiene alguna pregunta o necesita adaptaciones, comuníquese con nosotros en esct.advocacy@gmail.com.

Planning Together for a Good Life Today & in the Future

Ivy Goldstein & Laura Buckner

In the best of times, parents, understandably, can easily be overwhelmed at the thought of making plans to help ensure a good life for their children with disabilities. These are not the best of times. The pandemic revealed that we need plans in place now. Join our presentation to find out what parents are doing today to prepare for both the unexpected and the inevitable. Bring your “What If” questions and let’s take small steps forward together.

Sexuality and Healthy Relationships

Heidi Lersch

Unfortunately, students with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) are consistently excluded from safer sexuality and healthy relationship education. Lack of access and other barriers to gaining crucial information about sex and relationships can result in students with IDD not having the tools and skills they need to be safer in their relationships and in the community. Fortunately, there are many ways parents and educators can address this knowledge gap and impact the high rates of abuse and assault of people with IDD. Heidi will cover the importance of sexuality and relationship education for students with IDD and lead the group in exploring practical ways to teach accessible sexuality and relationship skills. Session participants will leave with activities they can use now to teach skills such as consent and boundaries, as well as information about accessible healthy relationship resources currently available online.

Mental Wellness is More Important than Ever

Barbara Granger

During the time together, you will learn to define mental wellness and its impact on your life during the current world situation. Barbara will help you look at ways to practice mental wellness to increase your ability to handle mental health challenges. She will also explore how mental wellness provides opportunities to set goals to manage and improve your ability to be resilient in the face of uncertainty.

Guardianship and Alternatives

Alison Packard

Once a child with disabilities becomes a legal adult, how does a parent continue to protect and make decisions for that child? Alison will discuss the guardianship option as well as alternatives to guardianship, such as powers of attorney, supported decision-making agreements, special needs trusts and representative payees. Alison will suggest factors to consider in determining the best course of action for your child. She will also provide an overview of the guardianship process in Texas, including the timeline, court procedures, options for limited guardianships, requirements for maintaining the guardianship and tips for a smooth proceeding.

Using Person Centered Practices to Prepare for a COVID Crisis or Other Emergencies

Jeff Garrison-Tate

Participants will learn how to develop a one page description which offers a brief snapshot of what is important to a person, critical medical information and what supports a person needs if hospitalized because of COVID or other emergencies. Although the focus of the presentation is to support children and adults with disabilities, the training is relevant for everyone.

Manejando Colapsos Emocionales y Rabieta

Heidi Lersch

En esta presentación, se aprenderá cómo diferenciar entre las rabieta y los colapsos emocionales, se desarrollarán ideas para prevenirlos, aprenderá estrategias para responder a cada uno y saber cuándo buscar ayuda profesional.

BREAKOUT SESSION 3: Saturday, July 17th 9:45 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

Strength Based IEP's

Shemica Allen

Shemica will discuss the basics of the strength-based IEP approach and techniques for incorporating strength-based planning into the IEP process. You will also learn how to apply the strength-based and person centered planning approaches to writing a present levels and goals.

Personal Support Networks: Enriching Lives in the Present and Preparing for the Future

Denise Sonleitner, TxP2P

The best guarantee of a safe and secure future for a person with a disability is to have caring friends, family members and acquaintances involved in their life. Personal support networks build a community of caring volunteers around a person at risk of isolation; they promote planning and social opportunities in the present, assist with decision-making, work to be sustainable after parents can no longer be available and offer a committed safety net of support. Texas Parent to Parent's Texas Network Connections (TNC) program, modeled after the Planned Lifetime Advocacy Network in Canada, helps families explore, develop and maintain personal support networks for their sons and daughters who have a disability (<https://www.txp2p.org/services/texas-network-connections>). Denise, Lead Facilitator for TNC, will provide information on what a network is, how to start one and the many ways networks can help an individual and a family in the present and for the future.

Young Adult Voices: Insightful Perspectives on Health Care Transition

Ivy Goldstein & Panel

The move from pediatric to adult health care for young adults with chronic illness and/or disabilities is far from seamless. Instead, youth, young adults and their families may encounter one unexpected challenge after another. Does it have to be this way? Maybe not. Come hear pearls of wisdom and insights from young adults who have made the leap and want to ease the way for others.

Medicaid and Medicaid Waiver Programs

Elizabeth Tucker

Join Elizabeth, Executive Director of EveryChild, Inc., to learn important information about Texas long-term services and supports that may be available to your family, including Medicaid and Medicaid waivers. Elizabeth will include an overview of the benefits available through Medicaid and the Texas Home and Community-Based Services, waivers, and answer frequently asked questions such as who is eligible and how to apply. Waivers can pay for things such as home modifications, respite, adaptive aids, habilitation and personal care services and nursing. She will also provide information about the program that allows families to purchase Medicaid for their children.

How to Tell Your Story: “What’s Your Story? Why is it Important?”

Michelle Vasquez

Stories are a powerful way to engage with doctors, educators, social workers, policy makers and others in the community to build empathy and compassion. In this workshop, Michelle will explain how to tell your story to educate, influence and inspire others. There are many ways to craft your story. She will walk you through a step-by-step activity using creative writing techniques. This session is for anyone who wants to effectively tell an impactful story.

Los beneficios del Seguro Social para las personas con discapacidad

Lee Alviar

Lee proveerá una reseña de los programas de la Administración del Seguro Social, beneficios y elegibilidad para niños con discapacidades. También le compartirá información acerca de los métodos alternativos de trámites incluyendo servicios en línea.

BREAKOUT SESSION 4: Saturday, July 17th 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Emergency Preparedness

David Rivera

David will discuss household emergency preparedness actions to take before, during and after a disaster in your community.

Early Childhood Intervention: Updates from the 87th Texas Legislature

Jolene Sanders-Foster

Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) is a critical program that provides therapies and other services for babies and toddlers with disabilities or developmental delays to help them gain skills and become school ready. There have been so many changes in Texas over the years impacting ECI programs: funding, Child Find, access to care. COVID-19 highlighted existing challenges and presented us with new ones. Join this session for updates on ECI and to learn how lawmakers' decisions this legislative session impacted the program.

Parent Leadership-Serving on Groups

Laura Warren & Rosalba Calleros, TxP2P

Are you interested in becoming more involved in your community? Maybe join a committee? Do you want to learn more about how you can grow as a parent leader? Then join us to explore different ways to become involved on a community, city and state level.

The Room Where It Happens!

Amy Litzinger, Jennifer Bacak & Linda Litzinger, TxP2P

The 87th Legislative Session has ended and our advocacy team has a few successes to report! Come learn what will change for our children and adults with a disability. We shall also cover the ABCs of advocacy and upcoming advocacy opportunities, plus introduce you to Jennifer Bacak, our newest team member!

Collaborating When It Feels Adversarial

Caroline Nelson

Is your ARD/IEP/504 team in conflict, at a standstill or not hearing each other? Caroline will explore the nature of conflict on parent-professional teams and how to use the law as a tool -- not a weapon. You will leave with concrete strategies for building a legally-compliant and best-practice oriented education plan, ensuring all committee members can actually contribute as equal players, breaking deadlock and preserving working relationships.

Discapacidad y Sexualidad CANCELLED

Mariana García Torres

Mariana cubrirá el tema de la sexualidad en personas con discapacidades. Será una descripción general de temas comunes relacionados como la pubertad, la adolescencia, la auto estimulación, el manejo de las emociones, los mitos sobre la discapacidad, la sexualidad, algunos consejos para que los padres sepan cómo manejar esta situación y cómo sentirse más cómodos hablando con sus hijos sobre este tema. Esta presentación proviene de un plan de estudios de 12 horas desarrollado para padres de preadolescentes con trastorno del espectro autista probado en los Estados Unidos y Colombia.

Texas ABLE Account

Anna Mallet & Vanessa Goodson

The Texas ABLE Program is the state's new savings program for Texans with disabilities. Come learn about the Texas Achieving A Better Life Experience (Texas ABLE®) program and how Texans with disabilities and their families can save for disability-related expenses in a tax-advantaged ABLE account without losing eligibility for certain public benefits. Funds in an ABLE account can be used to pay for qualified disability expenses that relate to the beneficiary's blindness or disability and are used to maintain or improve their health, independence or quality of life.

ABOUT THE PRESENTERS

Our speakers are amazing! Please let them know how much they are **appreciated!** They are here as volunteers without payment for their time – they are here to share their knowledge and experiences with conference participants.

Steve Aleman

Prior to joining Disability Rights Texas, Steven Aleman had many years of experience in policy analysis, law, mediation and teaching. He has worked both in Washington, DC at the federal level and in Austin, Texas at the state level. Drawing on this broad range of experience encompassing education policy analysis and disability law, Steven currently serves as the in-house expert at Disability Rights Texas on public school issues affecting children and youth with disabilities in Texas. He guides advocacy efforts aimed at improving the state's laws and policies for the special education system. saleman@drtx.org

Shemica S. Allen

Shemica is the founder of Personalized Learning Solutions, LLC and a former educator with 15 years of teaching and administration experience working with students with disabilities and their parents/guardians in many different capacities. Shemica has extensive training in facilitating ARD meetings

and working with ARD committees. She was named to the Special Education Continuing Advisory Committee (SECAC) in 2017. She is also a Special Education Advocate Training (SEAT) Instructor/Teaching Assistant for SEAT 1.0 & 2.0 courses for Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates (COPAA) and National Allies for Parents in Special Education (NAPSE) Advocate Committee Co-Chair. personalizedlearningsolutions@gmail.com

Rosalie “Lee” Alviar

Lee, a 30-year veteran with the Social Security Administration, first started as a claims clerk in Brownsville, Texas and has worked through various levels of management. Lee was previously a Lead Training Instructor for 5 years, training newly hired employees nationwide, and currently serves as a Regional Public Affairs Specialist over a 5 state area. Lee has a Bachelor’s of Science in Computer Science, a Master’s degree in Business Administration and a Doctorate of Management in Organizational Leadership. In addition to playing with computers, Lee enjoys working with the youth and has been a Board Member and trainer for TEDxYouth in Fort Worth for the past five years. rosalie.alviar@ssa.gov

Jennifer Bacak, TxP2P

Jennifer recently joined TxP2P as the TCDD Policy Fellow. Prior to joining TxP2P, she was a special education teacher and is a graduate of TCDD’s Partners in Policymaking. Jennifer also serves at the Vice-President of Outreach for her school district’s Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC) and is a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) liaison with the PTA. She lives in Round Rock with her husband and three children. Her youngest child has Down syndrome.

Ali Baucom

Ali is a certified special educator and behavior analyst with over 15 years of experience providing behavior analytic services to individuals of all ages and abilities. She has taught and trained in inclusive preschools, treated aggressive behavior in children and adults, taught in public schools, and managed ABA therapy programs in homes, clinics and non-profits. Ali earned her undergraduate degree in special education from Texas A&M and her graduate degree in early childhood special education and behavior analysis from Vanderbilt University. In 2013, she founded Baucom Behavioral to provide customized parent education programs to improve routines and build lifelong skills. alison@baucombehavioral.com

Laura G. Buckner

Laura has 30+ years’ experience in the disability field. A Licensed Professional Counselor and former special educator, Laura has invested the last 20+ years providing training on the local, state and national levels. Employed by the Texas Center for Disabilities at The University of Texas in Austin, Laura provides training nationally on Person Centered Practices, Trauma Informed Care, and Health Care Transition, among other disability-related topics. Laura is a Certified Mentor Trainer in Person Centered Practices through The Learning Community for Person Centered Practices (www.tlcpcp.com). She is a certified Ambassador in the Charting the LifeCourse work created at the University of Missouri–Kansas City Institute for Human Development (<http://www.ihd.umkc.edu/>).

While professional experience helps, Laura believes her greatest expertise comes from her lived-experience as a Mom. Her 31-year-old son, a charming young man with intellectual and developmental disabilities, is both impetus and inspiration to Laura's work to create inclusive communities...and the plans that enable people to live lives of choice successfully, with the right supports, in those communities.

Laura.buckner@utexas.edu

Rosalba Calleros, TxP2P

Rosalba is the Family Support Coordinator and coordinates parent matching and follow-up, travels throughout Texas to conduct Peer Parent Mentor trainings and provides bilingual volunteer and parent support. Rosalba has a son with cerebral palsy and a daughter. rosalba.calleros@txp2p.org

Lisa Flores

Lisa started her advocacy work, like so many parents, as an advocate for her own child. She is a graduate of Texas Partners in Policymaking, class of 2018. She is currently serving on the HB3 Special Education Funding Allotment Committee. She is a self-taught legislative advocate and was an avid volunteer with many disability organizations, before starting to work as an advocacy specialist for Easter Seals. As a Latina, her areas of interest are helping Spanish speakers learn to advocate and special education. Her dedication to advocacy is born from a simple commitment to advocate at any and every opportunity. In her free time, she sews for hairless cats and is an avid Star Wars fanatic.

Mariana Garcia

Mariana is a Colombian psychologist and a Ph.D. candidate in Disability Studies who works with parents of pre/adolescents with disabilities. Mariana has developed a program for parents to provide education and resources about sexuality and disability. She is currently in Colombia finishing her dissertation and she has also studied interactions between dogs and people with disabilities.

Jeff Garrison-Tate

Jeff is the Founder and CEO for BETTER LIVES, an organization that supports people to get the lives they choose. Jeff worked with the University of Texas and Texas A&M Centers on Disability, Policy Manager, Advocate and Community Organizer with the Arc of Texas and Executive Director for an ECI program. He is a Mentor Trainer with The Learning Community on Person Centered Practices and lives in Bryan.

jeffgt.betterlives@gmail.com

Ivy Goldstein

Ivy is the Children with Special Health Care Needs (CSHCN) State Health Coordinator within the Texas Department of State Health Services. She oversees and works on numerous projects focused on transition, medical home and community inclusion. Ivy brings a family perspective to her work knowing firsthand the joys and challenges of parenting a child with disabilities. Her daughter, Sophie, has a rare genetic condition

and is the spark for Ivy's dedication to ensuring the well-being and quality of life for CYSHCN and their families. ivy.goldstein@dshs.texas.gov

Vanessa Goodson

Vanessa started working for the Texas Comptroller's Office this year and currently serves as the Outreach Specialist for the state's new Texas ABLE Program. She earned a master's degree in Business from Grantham University. She has 2 years of service with the State of Texas, including serving as Business Specialist for the Office of the Governor. Previously, she managed several large scale Central Texas businesses and served six years in the United States Air Force.

Anna Mallett

Anna has worked with the Texas Comptroller's Office for ten years and currently serves as the Outreach Specialist for the state's new Texas ABLE® Program. She previously worked as a Marketing Coordinator for the Texas Tuition Promise Fund, the state's 529 prepaid college savings plan. Anna has over 19 years of service with the State of Texas including serving as Grant Program Manager for the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles and Public Relations Manager at the Texas Department of Transportation. She holds a BA in Communications from Southwest Texas State University. She and her husband live in Austin and have two children: Brandon 14 and Lainey 2.

Barbara Granger

Barbara is the Family Engagement Specialist with Texas System of Care through the University of Texas' Institute for Excellence in Mental Health. Barbara is a Master Level Certified Family Partner who is responsible for assisting communities in identifying and cultivating strong partnerships between families and systems. Barbara assists family members in strengthening leadership skills that unite family voices that will impact system change. She is always advocating for, teaching, leading and guiding family leaders in Texas. She is the 2019 National Federation of Families recipient of "Reclaiming Children" Award for her work in promoting healthier families in Texas. barbara.granger@austin.utexas.edu

Heidi Lersch

Heidi is the Disability Services Educator and Training Coordinator for SAFE. They develop curriculum to support transition-age students in increasing knowledge of safer sexuality, building healthy relationship skills, and leadership skills. Before joining Disability Services, Heidi worked as a Prevention Educator, educating community youth to prevent sexual assault and domestic violence. Heidi's previous professional experience includes directly supporting young adults with IDD as a job coach in a transition program. They also developed continuing education classes and community engagement programs for adults with IDD as the Education Team Lead at the Down Home Ranch Day program. hlersch@safeaustin.org

Amy Litzinger, TxP2P

Amy is a self-advocate and TxP2P Public Policy Lead, helping families to learn to advocate. Also, she is appointed to HHSC's IDD System Redesign Advisory Council and TEA's Continuing Advisory Council. Amy is a graduate of Southwestern University, Austin Seminary and Texas Partners in Policymaking and lives in Austin. For fun, she dances with Body Shift, a mixed-ability dance company.

Linda Litzinger, TxP2P

Linda is a policy specialist for Texas Parent to Parent helping families to access the Capitol as well as to serve HHSC and TEA through their advisory committees. Linda also serves on Texas Disability Task Force on Emergency Management. Linda is a parent to an adult self-advocate. Linda.litzinger@txp2p.org

Ron Lucey, TxP2P Board of Directors

Ron is the Chair of the TxP2P Board of Directors, the Executive Director of the Texas Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities and previously worked for the Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS) in several positions. He is a graduate of the University of Texas with degrees in government and communications. His perspective as a person with a vision disability has helped him effectively advocate for accessibility and the rights of Texans with disabilities. Lucey served as an Austin City Commissioner and as chair of the Austin Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities, providing accessibility policy recommendations to the City Council and Austin's previous five mayors. He is also the proud father of three kids including a child with disabilities. Ron.Lucey@gov.texas.gov

Moriah Looten

Moriah is a clinical social worker licensed to provide psychotherapy. For the past 5 years, she has worked with children and their families to promote healing, confidence, better communication, more cooperation and better control over emotions and behaviors. She believes that working collaboratively with parents / caregivers to achieve effective parenting strategies and therapeutic tools is the key to creating positive and lasting changes in children's lives.

Caroline Nelson

Caroline's unique law firm serves young people with disabilities by helping the adults in their lives navigate special education/504 disputes and future planning dilemmas. MiddleWay Law services include advocacy, negotiation, mediation, facilitated IEPs, person-centered strategic planning, parent coaching, entity consulting and speaking and training engagements. Caroline also helps divorcing parents to negotiate long term educational, decision-making and shared support for adult children with disabilities. Visit <https://middlewaylaw.net/> to learn more. caroline@middlewaylaw.net

Alison Packard

Alison is a special needs planning attorney with the Packard Law Firm in San Antonio. Her practice focuses on estate planning (including special needs trusts), guardianship, alternatives to guardianship, general probate work and government benefits eligibility. Alison's passion for her practice comes from her personal life as the mother to a beautiful 27-year-old daughter with significant disabilities. Alison knows what it means to fight for a child with disabilities. She understands the worry that parents have as they plan for children who will always need resources, supports and services. Alison finds joy in helping others along this journey. alison@packardfirm.com

Cindi Paschall

Cindi is a parent passionately involved in advancing the Disability Justice Movement. She has dedicated the past 25 years to advocacy, applying her personal experience and knowledge in helping others. cindipaschall@sbcglobal.net

David Rivera

David works with the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) in Austin. He has 15 years of experience providing public health awareness, education and outreach. For the past 5 years, he has been traveling throughout Texas providing emergency preparedness training including utilizing the train-the-trainer model. david.rivera@dshs.texas.gov

Leah Rummel

Leah is the Vice President of Strategic Account Development at United Healthcare, working on Medicaid, Medicare and CHIP services in Texas. Leah served as Board Chair of Texas Parent to Parent, Co-Chair of the Policy Council for Children and Families and continues serving on numerous statewide workgroups to improve services for individuals with disabilities and their families. Leah is mom to Brandon, 26. Brandon, along with support from his mom and personal network, has built a great life that includes living independently, paid employment and opportunities to pursue his passions as a Beatles fan extraordinaire. leah_c_rummel@uhc.com

Jolene Sanders-Foster

Jolene is the Advocacy Director at the Coalition of Texans with Disabilities (CTD) and has been working with children and families for 25 years. She is called upon for research, policy analysis and recommendations to the Texas Legislature and state agencies on issues surrounding disabilities, particularly those affecting children and youth. In addition to her work at CTD, Jolene works with VELA families, facilitating courses for parents on Special Education and autism. She is also the proud mother of 3 boys, including a gregarious teen with autism. jsanders@txdisabilities.org

Allison Schaberg

Allison is a passionate advocate for the disability community. Through her company, Consolidated Planning Group, Allison provides advice, education and financial planning consultation services for families who care for those with disabilities. No stranger to special needs, Allison has navigated the rough waters of disabilities in her own immediate family. When it comes to disabilities, the need for planning is drastically increased when you have a family member that may need care for the rest of their life. Through adequate savings and a solid financial plan, Allison saw firsthand the difference insurance and proper planning made for her own family. For this and many other reasons, Allison is very passionate about the work she does. She believes wholeheartedly that we are making a difference in the lives of our clients, one client at a time! Allison is married to her wonderful husband, Jeff. They are proud of their four children who range in age from 16 to 30. They are active members at River Pointe Church. In her spare time, she enjoys traveling, nature, scuba diving and photography. aschaberg@cpqcares.net

Ashley Sanchez

Ashley is the mother of 3 daughters. Her oldest daughter, Cristina, is 27 and has Down syndrome. Through her life, Cristina has asserted her independence, eventually prompting Ashley and her husband, Hector, to explore ways that Cristina could transition out of their family home. The result is Adults Independent and Motivated (AIM), a new community in Central Texas that helps adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities live independently, with appropriate supports, close to their peers in an apartment setting. AIM is based on The Mission Project, a community in Kansas City.

Denise Sonleitner, TxP2P

Denise is the Co-Creator and Lead Facilitator of Texas Network Connections, TxP2P's network facilitation program. Denise loves talking to other parents (and anyone else who will listen!) about personal networks and how this powerful tool can help families raising a child with a disability. Since 2002, Denise has been involved in disability advocacy: Austin Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities (2003-2012), TxP2P Board of Directors & Chairperson (2010-2017), Children's Policy Council (2007-2016), StarKids Advisory Council (2016-2018), and Partners in Policymaking (2004). In 2010, with support from friends and family, the Sonleitners set up a network for Maverick, called 'MavMen.' sonleitner@aol.com

Elizabeth Tucker

Elizabeth, Executive Director of EveryChild, has 36 years of experience in advocacy, policy and program development to support children and adults to move from institutions to the community. For the past 16 years, she has worked for EveryChild, HHSC's contractor of family-based alternatives to the institutionalization of children. She and the staff at EveryChild have assisted more than 700 children living in institutions or at imminent risk of institutionalization to live with families. Elizabeth shares a vision that all children should grow up in families. etucker@everychildtexas.org

Michelle C. Vasquez

Michelle is a communications coordinator and PhD student pursuing a concentration in adult education, social innovation and entrepreneurship at the University of the Incarnate Word in San Antonio, Texas. She has over 15 years of experience working in higher education with expertise in communications, website management and strategic planning. Her research interests include disabilities, health equity, inclusion, social justice and advocacy. She is leading an action research study using digital storytelling as an arts-based research method focused on learning how parents of children with disabilities gain access to federal programs, social services and support in the community. mcasares@uiwtx.edu

Laura J. Warren, TxP2P

Laura directs the operations of TxP2P with an emphasis on coordination of TxP2P, grant management, grant writing, fundraising, the newsletter, the website and occasionally provides parent support. Laura has one grown son. He was born at 24 weeks gestation and has mild disabilities and learning difficulties. Laura@txp2p.org

MEET OUR SPONSORS

Texas Parent to Parent (TxP2P) provides support, information, and education for Texas families of children and adults who have disabilities, chronic and mental health conditions and other health care needs. The majority of our staff and Board of Directors are parents of children and young adults with disabilities.

Following are our wonderful sponsors who made this conference possible:

TxP2P Circle of Sponsors – these organizations provide funding for our conferences and ALL our services for the 2021.

Amerigroup provides Texas STAR Kids benefits to young people age 20 and below who have disabilities or complex health needs and STAR+Plus for those over 21.

CDS in Texas offers you the opportunity to direct your own attendant care (and in some programs nursing and therapies). You become the employer and are responsible for recruiting, training, managing and firing your attendants. You choose an FMS Agency, like us, to provide you with initial training on your responsibilities and on being an employer. We continue to give you ongoing support. We do your payroll, file federal and state employer taxes for you, and do your quarterly and annual employer tax returns. We also report to you and your case manager or service coordinator on a quarterly basis letting you know what hours you have used. We support the CDS option in all of Texas' long term care programs.

Superior HealthPlan provides funding for our annual regional and statewide conferences for the parents and family members of children with special health care needs. Superior has also been a sponsor of our Annual Vine to Wine Reception. Superior HealthPlan is a state-partnered provider of managed healthcare

programs to more than 1.5 million members. Since 2008, Superior has also been the exclusive provider of the [STAR Health](#) program for children and youths in foster care.

United Healthcare delivers coordinated, whole person care tailored to meet the individual needs of the more than 30,000 children we are privileged to serve through the Texas STAR Kids program. Children served through STAR Kids are under the age of 21 and may have an intellectual or developmental disability. They have diverse strengths and challenges, and it's important that services and supports reflect broad differences in diagnoses, conditions, development, environment, age, family dynamics, and geography. UnitedHealthcare Service Coordinators connect STAR Kids to the care and services they need, dedicated Member Advocates reduce barriers to care and address concerns, School Liaisons work with the family and school districts to promote access and inclusion, and Transition Specialists support the move from pediatric care to adult care.

TxP2P Conference Sponsors:

Aetna Better Health of Texas is a national leader in managing care and services for people with special healthcare needs, bringing over 30 years of experience helping those whose health is most at risk. Aetna serves Texas Medicaid programs: STAR, STAR Kids, CHIP, and CHIP Perinate.

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas (BCBSTX) is pleased to offer health plans for individuals who qualify for Medicaid (STAR, STAR Kids) and CHIP programs. BCBSTX has been around for over 90 years and is the largest provider of health benefits in the state of Texas.

Community First Health Plans is proud to be a member of the University Health (UH) Family. UH is committed to delivering patient-centered, culturally competent and high-quality healthcare, based on a strong foundation of outcomes-based research and innovative teaching. UH continuously strives to improve the health and well-being of the people of Bexar County, South Texas, and beyond. Provider of STAR, STAR Kids, CHIP, and CHIP Perinate.

Texas Achieving a Better Life Experience (Texas ABLE®) Program is based on federal and state legislation. It provides Texans with disabilities and their families the opportunity to save money for disability-related expenses in a tax-advantaged account without losing their eligibility for certain public benefits, such as Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Medicaid. Texas residents who experience the onset of a disability before the age of 26 and meet program eligibility requirements may open a Texas ABLE account.

URS Medical has been making a difference for Texans with special medical needs for over a decade. In an evolving market segment reeling from the uncertainty of reform, URS has depended on the principles of family and fairness to help care for our loyal patients and long-term employees. URS provides most types of consumable medical supplies including enteral, respiratory, incontinence, urological, wound care, dietitian services and breast pumps.

Wave Health Care is a Durable Medical equipment (DME) company specializing in respiratory equipment for children. It is our goal to provide the highest quality home healthcare equipment, supplies and services, in a cost-effective manner, to all our patients in our geographical coverage area. We are dedicated to providing clinical expertise through the services of their Respiratory Care Practitioners (RCP). Our RCPs will support your child through education of respiratory medical equipment for family members and caregivers.



Service coordination



Helping STAR Kids members live in the least restrictive environment

Because many services may be required to allow STAR Kids members to live in their home or an independent living setting, we assign service coordinators to locate and secure necessary resources for our members so they can live as independently as possible.



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The role of the service coordinator

Our service coordinators are trained health care professionals who assess a member's health care needs, develop a health history and evaluate the member's home environment. Using this information, the service coordinator works with the member's care provider(s) and caregiver(s) to create a person-centered care plan to allow the member to safely remain at home or in an independent setting.

The service coordinator

- Explores options for members to live at home or in other community settings
- Explains services and resources to the member that would allow them to remain independent
- Arranges and coordinates care for the member with their primary care provider
- Assists with health, behavioral health and social needs, including scheduling appointments and arranging transportation
- Secures services with Long-term Services and Supports, such as personal home care, employment assistance and supported employment

Let us know when a member needs more help

- Contact the member's service coordinator to report significant changes in the member's health, caregiver support, or functional status that will not normally resolve themselves without further intervention and requires a review of, and revision to, the current individual service plan.



We're here to help

If you have any questions, call Customer Service at **888-887-9003**. To speak with a Service Coordinator, please call **877-352-7798**. Thank you.



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