

March 2022

FEATURED NEWS



Healthy Minds, Healthy Communities - Virtual Program Launch and Info Session, March 29 at 10 a.m.

Healthy Minds, Healthy Communities is a new community-based initiative whose mission is to equip individual community members, community groups and leaders, and community-based organizations with the tools and training to support each other's emotional health leading to increased resiliency and community-wide emotional wellness.

To celebrate the program launch, Healthy Minds, Healthy Communities in partnership with The Harris Center will be hosting a Virtual Program Launch & Information Session on Mar. 29, 2022 at 10 a.m. to introduce community members, neighborhood leaders and service organizations to the program. It will also aim to provide specific information for those interested in becoming a part of the movement.

Keynote Speakers

- Wayne Young, Chief Executive Officer, The Harris Center for Mental Health and IDD
- Adrian Garcia, County Commissioner for Precinct 2, Harris County
- Dyani Banda, Program Manager – Suicide Care and Outreach Initiatives, The Harris Center for Mental Health and IDD
- Moderated by Jennifer Battle, Director of Access, The Harris Center for Mental Health and IDD

[Register today](#) to join the virtual program launch!

Healthy Minds, Healthy Communities is facilitated by The Harris Center for Mental Health and IDD and funded by Harris County using American Rescue Program Act (ARPA) Local Fiscal Recovery Funds.

Register Today



Meet our new Chief Administrative Officer, Carrie Rys

The Harris Center is pleased to announce an important addition to the executive leadership team. Join us in welcoming our new Chief Administrative Officer, Carrie Rys. Carrie previously worked as the Assistant Vice President of Pediatric Faculty Practice and Ambulatory Operations at Texas Children's Hospital. In this role, she had executive oversight of complex service lines including critical care, emergency care, developmental pediatrics, and more.

The Chief Administrative Officer position will oversee the Human Resources, Communications, and Government Affairs departments within the agency.

Help us give Carrie a warm welcome to The Harris Center. We are excited to have her unique skills and expertise on the executive leadership team.

[**Watch the 'Meet the CAO' Video**](#)



March is Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month

The month of March is a time to raise awareness about the inclusion of people with developmental disabilities in all areas of community life, as well as awareness to the barriers that people with disabilities still sometimes face in connecting to the communities in which they live.

In 1987 President Ronald Reagan proclaimed March "Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month." The deinstitutionalization movement of the seventies and early eighties had laid the foundation for significant social change, and the presidential proclamation called upon Americans to provide the "encouragement and opportunities" necessary for people with developmental disabilities to reach their potential. For more information, visit the [American Association of People with Disabilities website](#). Developmental disability is a diverse group of chronic conditions that are due to mental or physical impairments. Developmental disabilities cause individuals living with them difficulties in certain areas of life, especially in language, mobility, learning, self-help and independent living.

Study after study has shown how when you design for disability, you design for all. This takes many forms, like including people with disabilities in the general workforce and providing them with greater economic opportunity, having students of all abilities in the same classroom and empowering them to achieve their full academic potential, or simply providing people with developmental disabilities the supports they need to live in the greater community.

Last year, Governor Greg Abbott issued a [proclamation recognizing](#) Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, noting, "people with developmental disabilities have unique abilities and experiences that contribute to our state's rich diversity and heritage, just like all Texans [and Texas] is a stronger place when people of all abilities are included in community life."

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHTS



Integrated Care at The Harris Center

Integrated Care is the coordination of physical health care and behavioral health care allowing primary care physicians to work closely with mental health professionals to provide a more comprehensive approach to care. Service offerings include:

- Primary health screenings and treatment for prediabetes, diabetes, hypertension, COPD, asthma and high cholesterol
- Weight management
- Coaching for health and wellness
- Lifestyle management and supports
- Women's health: Wellness examinations, contraceptive counseling/family planning
- Medication education
- Coordination of your health care with specialty health providers within the community

[Watch the Video](#)

IN THE MEDIA

Ideal Med Health

[Best Rehabilitation Centers in Texas 2022](#)

March 22, 2022

There are outstanding rehabilitation centers in Texas that are devoted to providing the care and teachings essential for healthy free and ideal living. The Harris Center for Mental Health and IDD is pleased to have made

the list.



The New York Times

[As a Crisis Hotline Grows, So Do Fears It Won't Be Ready](#)



March 13, 2022

With an infusion of federal money, the upgraded Lifeline starting in July will have its own three-digit number, 988, and operators who will not only counsel callers but eventually be equipped to dispatch specially trained responders. That will reduce interventions by armed law enforcement and reliance on emergency rooms — and ultimately keep people alive, advocates say. Jennifer Battle, director of access at The Harris Center, offers her insights on the future impact of 988.

MORE INFORMATION

Do you want to learn more about The Harris Center?

Visit our website to learn more about our programs and services or view our [FY2022-2024 Strategic Plan](#) to see how we're working to transform lives in Harris County and beyond.

Visit The Harris Center's Website

Questions? Contact Communications@TheHarrisCenter.org.

