

Make a Difference

MHC continues to expand connections between public and private entities, working together to create a more equitable and innovative mental health care system by:

- Continuously building a trauma informed workforce through cross-agency trainings and symposiums in evidence based and best practices
- Increasing public awareness and addressing stigma through education, social marketing, and community initiatives
- Fostering alliances with networking opportunities through monthly meetings, work committees, and learning communities
- Coordinating pilot projects to encourage system-wide implementation of best practices

Learn more at
www.mentalhealthconnection.org



Mental Health Connection's mission is to strengthen mental health services through the collaboration of our members and revolutionize the system in Tarrant County by making long-term changes while addressing emerging needs.



Mental Health Connection is a collaboration of public and private agencies, community leaders, and individuals who need mental health care services and their caregivers. It works to revolutionize the mental health delivery system by improving access, availability and quality of care throughout the community.



Strengthening Mental Health Through Collaboration

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

If you are interested in becoming an organizational or individual member, please visit mentalhealthconnection.org, download and complete a membership application

MENTAL HEALTH CONNECTION
3136 W. 4th Street
Fort Worth, Texas 76107
817.972.5200

Mental Health Connection (MHC) of Tarrant County is a collaboration of dues-paying members, committed to revolutionizing the mental health service system by developing long-term systemic changes while addressing emerging needs within our community. We believe that healthy minds lead to healthy communities.

Forging Connections

MHC of Tarrant County originated in 1999 after a man suffering from an untreated mental illness went on a tragic shooting rampage at Wedgwood Baptist Church, killing seven and then himself. Then Fort Worth Mayor, Kenneth Barr, turned to local mental health providers, requesting a plan to improve access to quality mental health services for all Tarrant County residents.

A group of thought leaders in the field of mental health answered the charge through providing resources, creating task forces, collaborative planning, recruiting organizational and individual members, and developing a fees structure - the Mental Health Connection of Tarrant County was established.

Since that time, this core group has expanded to a membership of 100 diverse members that include:

- small and large non-profit service provider agencies
- not-for-profit and private hospitals and treatment centers
- school districts and universities
- child welfare and foster care agencies
- county and city officials
- individual practitioners
- community members impacted by mental health challenges
- Host of other interested stakeholders

See current member list on MHC website

MHC Major Milestones

MHC has achieved a number of major accomplishments since its inception, including:

- Leveraging more than \$50 million in support from federal and state government, foundations, and membership agencies
- Matching more than \$20 million in both financial and in-kind support
- Providing continuing education, training, and consultation from national experts in mental health, substance use, cultural responsiveness, trauma, resilience, and leadership
- Developing a trauma-informed workforce through continuing education, training, and consultation from national experts



Noteworthy Initiatives

Recognize & Rise

A community education campaign created to inform the public about the impact of chronic stress, adversity, and trauma, as well as to provide direction to tools and resources to strengthen resilience in individuals, businesses, and the community.

Reaching Teens

Partnering with Dr. Kenneth Ginsburg and the American Academy of Pediatrics, MHC completed a three-year, community-wide implementation and assessment of the Reaching Teens curriculum focused on teen trauma and resilience. The pilot was highlighted in the revised Reaching Teens 2 version and included chapters written by a number of MHC members.

Tarrant Cares

MHC facilitated the planning and implementation of Tarrant Cares, an online information service for individuals, families, caregivers and agencies. This one resource provides countless solutions for issues families may be facing. In 2021, a texting option was added to allow for zip code specific resources to be identified.

Fine Line Exhibit

In an effort to decrease stigma and increase conversation about mental health, MHC partnered with JPS Health Network and the Museum of Science and History to hold an exhibit featuring portraits and recorded stories of individuals struggling with mental health issues.

Open Minds, Open Doors

This campaign targeted adolescents through posters, billboards, bus ads, public service announcements, a supplement in the Fort Worth Star-Telegram and a five-day curriculum for use in classrooms. Awards for the campaign included the Texas Public Relations Association Silver Spur Awards and four Excellence in Community Communications and Outreach (ECCO) awards.

