



MENTAL HEALTH
CONNECTION
TARRANT COUNTY

Newsletter
July 2023



THE MESSENGER

MHC MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

ANNOUNCEMENTS, NEWS, & UPDATES

IN THE NEWS

MEMBER INITIATIVES, PROGRAMS, & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Announcement from MHC Board Chair

Dear Community Partners,

After four years at the helm of Mental Health Connection of Tarrant County, Virginia Hoft announced her retirement effective December 2023. Prior to her tenure as Executive Director, Virginia provided leadership in the field of mental health and substance use for over 30 years in Tarrant County which included participating as an MHC member agency since 2001 and serving as a board member.

Virginia has years of outstanding service to the Mental Health Connection providing strategic leadership through the pandemic and valuable guidance through the mental health crisis left in the wake.

“Virginia’s innovative approach to impacting our community and equipping individuals with the needed resources compelled her to host a unique seminar series, Interrupting the Pathways of Mass Violence. The focus of this work is developing collaborative evidence-based strategies to interrupt future events of mass violence in Tarrant County. Her leadership is laser-focused and brings large-scale community change specific to the most relevant mental health concerns. We have large shoes to fill moving forward,” said Ashley Elgin, Ph.D., Mental Health Connection Vice Chair.

Virginia is not taking her retirement lightly; she has led the charge to create an in-depth strategic plan to guide positive innovations in mental health access and response in the years to come. As the search begins for a new Executive Director, the focus shifts to finding a leader that is prepared to guide the Tarrant County community during a time when community mental health needs are greater than ever before.

You can play a vital role in helping us with the search for our next leader. We are looking for someone who has demonstrated strong executive leadership skills with a passion to promote the vision and mission of Mental Health Connection and to grow and engage our member organizations. A link for of the Job posting is below. Please distribute to your friends and professional network. For more information, please contact **Charlotte Keany** at:

Please join me in thanking Virginia for her commitment to the health and wellness of all Tarrant County residents and wishing her a great upcoming retirement!

Sincerely,

Ottis Goodwin

Ottis Goodwin

Mental Health Connection, Board President

MHC ED Job
Posting

MHC is collaborating with others to support Como Residents!



MHC sends our deepest condolences to the Como neighborhood as they heal from the devastating loss and trauma resulting from the gun violence last week.

MHC has created and will continue to update a user-friendly online "Mental Health Services Guide" for Como residents.

Last week, MHC sent out an "all call" request to members requesting a short description and contact information about any services that could be of support to Como residents. This information is being used to create the resource list. The link will be distributed in collaboration with Como outreach efforts.

If you did not respond to MHC's request for information, you may still add services by emailing Chasity.

Click the button below to view the resource page.

Mental Health Services Guide -
Como

NOTE: Resoures are not exclusive to Como; please distribute link as is helpful.

TRAINING ALERT

BUILDING A TRAUMA-INFORMED WORKFORCE

EMDR scholarships have been awarded!

MHC recognizes the importance of great training in ensuring a quality mental health workforce! We had



three times the requests for scholarships than we had availability. Priority was given to those MHC agencies who did not have the opportunity to utilize openings in 2022.

Be sure to watch for more MHC training opportunities coming up!

Congratulations to all who will be attending!

**EMDR Training Info
Here!**

Save the date!



DECEMBER 7, 2023

Interrupting the Pathways to Mass Violence: Next Steps!

Response from the March conference was an overwhelming requested for a "deeper dive" with Dr. Peterson and Dr. Densley to develop more specific strategies to interrupt this epidemic.

**Watch for ticket sales to open in September!
Contact Chasity for information on limited conference sponsorships!**

Air Conditioning for Disabled or Elderly Clients



Social workers or case workers who encounter disabled or elderly clients in need of a window air conditioning unit can submit a request for assistance.

Learn more about Eligibility Requirements HERE
Or email it jflynn@mealsonwheels.org or clientassistance@mealsonwheels.org

** Meals on Wheels do not accept referrals directly from the public. Agency /social worker must complete referral and submit to clientassistance@mealonwheels.org.*

[Referral Form](#)



National Alliance on Mental Illness

Nami is hosting a Family to Family class, click the button to learn more!

NAMI F2F Spanish

NAMI F2F English



Lunch & Learn Series

- August 15th
- October 17th
- December 5th
- Feb 6th

Click the button below to view the flyer and register!

CTL Lunch & Learn

MEETING RECAP

PREVIOUS MEETING MATERIALS & PICTURES

June Presentation:

Behavioral Law Enforcement Unit

Presentors:

Arlington PD:

Lt. Kim Harris, Sgt Jos Gowins & Team



Arlington Police in partnership with MHMR created a full-time and highly trained Behavioral Health Response and Crisis Intervention Team. With special training and supervision, this team provides trauma-informed responses to mental health related incidents.

Thank you, Arlington PD, for innovative approaches to complicated issues!

Together, we're better!

To learn more about becoming an MHC member, click below.

NOT A MEMBER YET?

- Established partnerships within MHC collaboration
- Expand your social footprint through MHC-sponsored digital media
- Priority access and discounted pricing on exceptional training and seminars
- Help make an impact on critical issues and needs in the mental health system
- Opportunities for networking through diverse partnerships
- Participate in discussions on strategic planning and goals
- Access to collaborative communications such as MHC Newsletter and "Message Board"



MENTAL HEALTH
CONNECTION
TARRANT COUNTY

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

WITH MEMBER AGENCIES

TO FIND JOB POSTINGS, CLICK BELOW!

You can also go to the [MHC website](#) or review the Message Board emailed on the 20th of every month!

[View Opportunities!](#)

[Share a job on Message Board!](#)

MESSAGE BOARD

WHAT'S NEW WITH OUR MEMBERS

ATTENTION MHC MEMBERS!

Let 1,700+ subscribers know what's happening at your agency!

MHC's Message Board is emailed on the 20th of each month.

Share your **job openings, events, initiatives, new programs, and more!**

[Learn More](#)

RECOGNIZE & RISE

An Initiative of
Mental Health Connection of Tarrant County



COMMITTEES

COLLABORATE ON YOUR PASSIONS WITH MEMBERS

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE:

Rane Wallace

(ranewallace@fortwellness.com)

Victoria San Martin

(victoria.sanmartin@mhmrtc.org)

SCHOOL MENTAL HEALTH COMMITTEE:

Michelle Broadwater

(michelle.broadwater@birdvilleschools.net)

Tracy Koller

(tracy.koller@mhmrtc.org)

ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE:

Virginia Hoft

(vhoft@mentalhealthconnection.org)

TARRANT CARES GOV. COMMITTEE:

Natalie Rose

(nmrose@tarrantcounty.com)

Lenee Bassham

(Lenee.Bassham@cookchildrens.org)

TBRI COLLABORATIVE COMMITTEE:

Lisa Farmer

(lisa.farmer2@cookchildrens.org)

Want more committee info?

It's important to **STAY CONNECTED** to
mental health resources and updates!

Mental Health Connection | 3136 W 4th Street, Fort Worth, TX 76107

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