



The Intellectual
and Developmental
Disabilities Council
of Tarrant County



MAKING CONNECTIONS CENTRAL TARRANT

COMMUNITY RESOURCES FOR ALL AGES

Welcome to the 2026 Making Connections Central Tarrant Community Resources Fair

Schedule:

8:30 AM	Exhibitor/Presenter Hospitality Room opens
9:00 AM	Exhibitor Hall opens
	Child/Youth/Adult Respite Care Room Opens
	Quiet/Sensory Room opens (An adult must remain present. See registration table for assistance.)
9:30 – 10:30 AM Breakout Sessions	• Guardianship and Alternatives: Rush to the Courthouse or Last Result? <i>(most useful for caregivers with children 17 or older)</i> • Understanding the ARD Process • From Diagnosis to Dreams: Panelist perspectives on Navigating the IDD Diagnosis
11:00 -11:45 AM Breakout Sessions	• Emotional Regulation Behavioral Techniques for home and classroom • Achieving a Better Life Experience (Texas ABLE®): A Savings Plan for Texans with Disabilities
12:00 – 1:00 PM Breakout Sessions	• #WoWTalk (Words of Wisdom) Café <i>(for young adults 13+)</i> • Planning for Peace of Mind: The Importance of Wills, Trusts, and Letter of Intent documents • Medicaid Waiver Programs and Interest Lists / Accessing Services through your Local LIDDA and Help Me Grow North Texas
12:30 PM	Exhibitor Hall Closes
1:15 PM	Child/Youth/Adult Respite Care Room Closes

The IDD Council of Tarrant County is proud to partner with Fort Worth ISD to bring you the "MAKING CONNECTIONS" CENTRAL TARRANT DISABILITY & COMMUNITY RESOURCES FAIR



Making Connections Community Resource Fairs connect individuals with disabilities, families, and caregivers with the resources and support available throughout our community. By bringing service providers and organizations together in one convenient location, attendees can gather information, ask questions, explore available programs and benefits, and make valuable connections. Making Connections Resource fairs are held each year at various locations throughout Tarrant County.



The Intellectual
and Developmental
Disabilities Council
of Tarrant County

www.IDDCouncil.org

- Approximately 200,000 individuals in Tarrant County have IDD.
- Seven children are born with disabilities in Tarrant County every day.
- A child with intellectual disabilities is born in Tarrant County every 12 hours.
- A child with an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is born in Tarrant County every day.

About IDD Council of Tarrant County

The IDD Council is a nonprofit organization dedicated to building a more inclusive region where individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) can truly thrive. Together with families and partner agencies, we host monthly meetings, webinars, educational workshops, community resource fairs, and speak at local events to raise awareness and advocate for change. Visit www.IDDCouncil.org to explore upcoming events, discover ways to get involved, and learn how you can help champion inclusion and understanding for people with IDD.

About IDD

IDD is used to describe any life-long disability attributable to mental and/or physical impairments that are diagnosed before the age of 18 (intellectual disabilities) or age 22 (developmental disabilities). IDD affects daily functioning in two or more of the following areas: capacity for independent living, economic self-sufficiency, learning, mobility, receptive and expressive language, self-care and self-direction. IDD includes such diagnoses as Autism Spectrum Disorder, Cerebral Palsy and Down Syndrome. Individuals can have symptoms that range from mild to severe.

Stay Connected

- Web: www.IDDCouncil.org
- Facebook: www.Facebook.com/IDDCouncil
- X: [@IDDCouncil](https://twitter.com/IDDCouncil)
- Instagram: www.instagram.com/iddcounciloftarrantco
- LinkedIn: [www.linkedin.com/iddcounciloftarrantco](https://www.linkedin.com/company/iddcounciloftarrantco)
- Email: Rita@IDDCouncil.org



**Premier
Partners:**



The Intellectual
and Developmental
Disabilities Council
of Tarrant County

BREAKOUT SESSIONS AT-A-GLANCE

9:30 - 10:30 a.m.

Guardianship and Alternatives: Rush to the Courthouse or Last Result?

Appropriate for families with loved ones who are approaching the age of 18 and over, this presentation will provide an overview of the laws applicable to guardianship in Texas, the evidence and standard of proof needed to obtain guardianship and the many alternatives to guardianship. By Tarrant County Probate 2 Court

Understanding the ARD Process

This session will provide an overview of the ARD process so that parents will be prepared to participate at every stage of the process. Participants will gain an understanding of the ARD meeting agenda, as well as their procedural rights and responsibilities. By Christy Balraj, Partners Resource Network.

From Diagnosis to Dreams: Panelist Perspectives on Navigating the IDD Journey

A discussion with parents and self-advocates sharing real stories, practical strategies, and lessons learned to support others in the journey from diagnosis through adulthood.

11:00 - 11:45 a.m.

Emotional Regulation: Behavioral Techniques for Home and Classroom

Emotional regulation does not begin with a deep breath—it starts with a well-regulated nervous system. This interactive session explores the foundational elements of emotional regulation for both children and adults, focusing on the critical link between connection, felt-safety and physical well-being. Participants will examine how meeting basic physiological needs like hydration, sleep, and nutrition combined with felt safety and meaningful connection form the foundation for emotional regulation. By Jennifer Cox, My Health My Resources

Achieving a Better Life Experience (Texas ABLE®): A Savings Plan for Texans with Disabilities

Appropriate for families with loved ones of all ages, attendees will 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, such as Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Medicaid. By Vanessa Goodson, Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts Educational Opportunities and Investment Division

Noon - 1 p.m.

#WoWTalk (Words of Wisdom) Café

Designed specifically for young adults, ages 13+, #WoWTalk (Words of Wisdom) Cafés bring youth, young adults, families, and caring adults together for meaningful conversations that build strong relationships and support healthy growth. These gatherings create welcoming spaces where youth can share experiences, learn from one another, and build skills for a successful transition into adulthood and active community involvement.

Medicaid Waiver Programs and Interest Lists / Accessing Services through Your Local LIDDA

As the State's Local IDD Authority (LIDDA) for Tarrant County, My Health My Resources (MHMR) is the first point of contact for families looking for services. Learn about Texas' interest lists, options and benefits, and the criteria for services. Designed to help families, caregivers, and professionals understand how Texas waiver program interest lists work, and why getting on them early matters, this discussion breaks down the different waiver options, what services they provide, how the interest list process operates, and strategies for staying informed while you wait. Attendees will gain clarity, confidence, and take actionable steps to ensure their loved

one is positioned for the support they may need in the future. It's an essential conversation for anyone planning ahead and navigating long-term services and supports. Session benefits families with loved ones of all ages.
By Stephanie Morris, My Health My Resources of Tarrant County

Planning for Peace of Mind: The Importance of Wills, Trusts, and Letters of Intent Documents

This presentation will provide families and caregivers with an overview of essential planning tools that help protect the future of their loved ones. Participants will learn the purpose and benefits of wills, trusts, and Letters of Intent, and how these documents work together to ensure wishes are clearly communicated and legally supported. The session will explore key considerations for individuals with disabilities, including preserving eligibility for public benefits, identifying future caregivers and decision-makers, and outlining personal preferences, routines, and supports. Attendees will gain practical information on how to begin the planning process, avoid common mistakes, and create a comprehensive plan that provides security, continuity, and peace of mind for both today and the years ahead. By Tristan Griffin, T.S. Griffin Law

ABOUT OUR PRESENTERS



Cheriece Overstreet

Cheriece Overstreet is a Licensed Master Social Worker, earning both her bachelor's and master's degrees in social work from Tarleton State University. She has 13 years of experience in the field, including working in mental health with MHMR and school social work with Fort Worth ISD. She is also currently pursuing an advanced licensure in Clinical Social Work. Cheriece currently serves as an Assistant Court Investigator for Tarrant County Probate Court No. 2 under the Honorable Judge S. Brook Bell, where she supports the court by assessing the need for guardianship and advocating for vulnerable individuals. Beyond her professional work, Cheriece is a proud mother of two adult children and has been married for 27 years. She enjoys being in nature, traveling and is grateful for the opportunity to speak today.



Christy Balraj

Christy Balraj is a Regional Coordinator with Partners Resource Network (PRN), serving families in Region 11 through the PACT Project. PRN operates Texas's statewide network of Parent Training and Information Centers, providing support to parents of children and youth with disabilities ages 0–26 and youth self-advocates ages 14–26. Christy holds a master's degree in Educational Administration and Supervision from the University of North Texas. She spent more than 30 years working in Fort Worth ISD as a classroom teacher, instructional specialist, and assistant principal. Following her retirement from public education, Christy joined PRN to continue her commitment to empowering families, supporting self-advocates, and helping students with disabilities achieve success.



Jennifer Cox

Jennifer Cox has served in a variety of roles in education and organizations serving families and children over the past 25 years. She has taught students ranging in ages from preschool to graduate school. She has also served as a public-school administrator. She enjoys reading anything related to development, but her specific areas of interest are the development of social/emotional and executive functioning skills. She is passionate about helping parents and those who work with children and youth understand how children learn and grow and how to best support their development. She earned her PhD in Child Development.



Jordyn Casto-Fisk

Jordyn Casto-Fisk is a Licensed Master Social Worker. She earned her bachelor's degree from the University of North Texas, with a minor in substance use counseling, and her master's degree from the University of Texas at Arlington. Jordyn brings nine years of experience working with diverse populations, ranging from children in foster care to older adults in nursing home settings. In her role with Probate Court No. 2, Jordyn serves as an Assistant Court Investigator and the Court Visitor Program Manager under the Honorable Judge S. Brook Bell. She oversees all active guardianship cases for the court and supervises social work interns who conduct annual court visits. Outside of her professional life, Jordyn enjoys spending time with her family and is recently married. She can often be found at a hockey rink cheering on her husband and cousins. She also loves expressing her creativity and making meaningful memories with her loved ones.



Stephanie Morris

Stephanie Morris is the Parent & Family Advocate for Disability Services, at My Health My Resources of Tarrant County (MHMRTC), where she's been employed for over twenty years. As a parent of a young man with special needs, she can relate and listen to your concerns. Stephanie supports families by helping them make decisions and choices regarding services and negotiates families concerns with service providers when requested. She helps educate families to have a clear understanding of their rights and how services should be provided.



Tristan Griffin

Tristan Griffin is an attorney and father who brings both professional expertise and personal experience to his work, helping families plan for the future of loved ones with disabilities. As the father of a child with a disability, Tristan understands firsthand the importance of thoughtful planning, protecting a loved one's financial future, and ensuring that the right supports are in place for the years ahead. Through his Fort Worth-based law firm, Tristan provides estate planning and disability-focused legal services to families throughout Texas. His practice includes wills, special needs trusts, powers of attorney, guardianship, and other legal and estate-planning strategies designed to help families protect assets, preserve access to important benefits, and plan for the long-term needs of their loved ones. Tristan believes that estate planning for a person with a disability involves much more than preparing documents—it is about creating a plan that reflects the individual's needs, goals, and quality of life while providing families with greater confidence about the future. With a combination of legal knowledge and lived experience as a parent, Tristan is committed to helping families navigate the often-complex decisions involved in planning for a loved one with a disability. Although his firm is located in Fort Worth, he serves families across the state of Texas.



Vanessa Goodson

Vanessa Goodson is an experienced public sector professional dedicated to empowering individuals with disabilities and their families through education and strategic outreach. She serves as the Outreach Specialist for the Texas ABLE Program at the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, where she focuses on helping Texans understand and access tax-advantaged savings opportunities that support long-term disability-related expenses. Vanessa brings a unique blend of public service and private-sector leadership to her work. She holds a Master of Business Administration from University of Arkansas Grantham University and has served the State of Texas across multiple roles, including as a Business Specialist in the Office of the Governor. Prior to her state service, Vanessa managed large-scale businesses in Central Texas and honorably served six years in the United States Air Force.

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR ALL OF TODAY'S SPONSORS!

Behavioral Innovations

www.bi-aba.com

Caleb, Inc.

www.calabinc.com

Mylar Health Services

www.mylarhealthservices.com

Cook Children's Health Plan

www.cookchp.org/members

Carekal Health LLC

www.carekalhealth.org

Stacy's Sensory Solutions

www.stacyssensorysolutions.com

My Health My Resources of Tarrant

www.mhmrtc.org

Champion Services

www.championservices.org

Star Medical Specialties

www.star-medical.net

United Healthcare

www.uhc.com

Homestead Behavior Therapy

www.homesteadbehaviortherapy.com

Tiff & Co LLC - ISS/Dayhab

www.tiffandco.org

Abundance Health Network

www.abundancehn.com

Metroplex Women's Clinic

www.metroplexwomensclinic.com

Ultimate Caring ABA

www.ultimatecaringaba.com

Bloemfontein Care Services LLC

www.bloemfonteincareservices.com

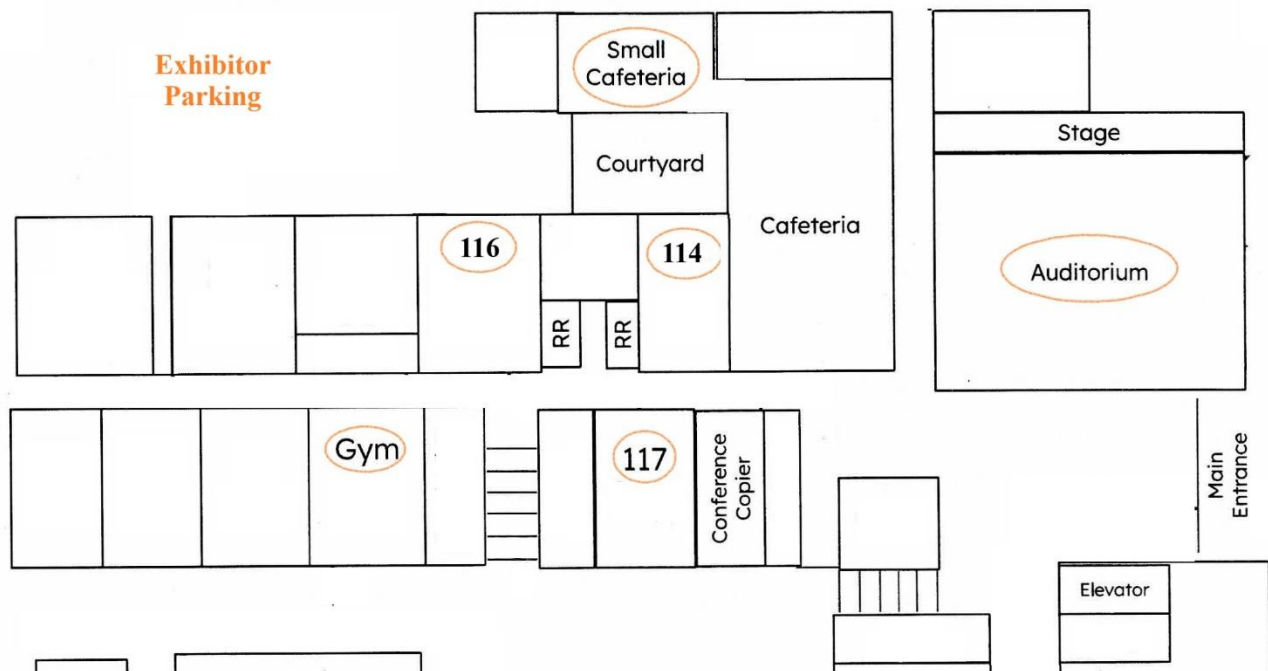
Viva Pediatrics Healthcare

www.vivaped.com

To all our presenters, exhibitors, sponsors, and donors: Thank you! Together, we are connecting individuals and families with valuable resources throughout our community. We deeply appreciate your support and partnership.

VENUE

LOCATION	EVENT
Gymnasium	9 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Exhibitor Hall
Auditorium	9:30 – 10:30 a.m. Guardianship: Rush to the Courthouse or Last Resort?
	12:00 – 1:00 p.m. Medicaid Waiver Programs, Interest Lists & Accessing Services through Your Local LIDDA
Room #114	9:30 – 10:30 a.m. Understanding the ARD Process
	11:00 – 11:45 a.m. Saving for your Loved Ones Future: Understanding Special Needs Trusts, ABLE and Savings Account Options
	12:00 – 1:00 p.m. #WoWTalk (Words of Wisdom) Café
Room #116	9:30 – 10:30 a.m. From Diagnosis to Dreams: Panelist Perspectives on Navigating the IDD Journey
	11:00 – 11:45 a.m. Emotional Regulation: Behavioral Techniques for Home and Classroom
	12:00 – 1:00 p.m. Planning for Peace of Mind: The Importance of Wills, Trusts, and Letters of Intent Documents
Small Cafeteria	9:00 – 1:15 p.m. Childcare/Youth/Adult Respite Care
Room #117	9:00 – 1:00 p.m. Sensory/Quiet Room (Adult must remain present. See registration table for assistance.)
Conf./Copier	9:00 – 12:30 p.m. Presenter/Exhibitor Hospitality Area



SERVICES AT A GLANCE

Organization	Advocacy / Awareness	ISS / Day Habilitation	Employment Guidance	Financial Planning & Assistance	Housing	ICF/IID/ LTC / Group Home	Legal Services	Medical / Health Services	Networking / Parent Education	Respite	Social Activities / Camps	Therapy (ABA/OT/PT)	Transportation
3 in 1 Advocacy	✓												
Abundance Health Network		✓			✓	✓				✓		✓	✓
Adaptive Edge Fitness & Spell to Express												✓	
Aetna Better Health of TX								✓					
Association for Independent Living (AFIL)	✓					✓							
Behavioral Innovations												✓	
Bloemfontein Care Services, LLC		✓	✓		✓	✓		✓		✓	✓		✓
Brighter Futures Educational Therapy												✓	
Calab Inc.		✓				✓							
Carekal Health LLC								✓					
Champion Services		✓			✓							✓	
Community Options, Inc.													
Cook Children's Health Plan		✓				✓		✓		✓			
Crohn's & Colitis Foundation	✓							✓			✓		
Embrace Your Purpose Outreach Center					✓	✓							
Envision Dallas			✓	✓				✓			✓		
Fort Worth Community Land Trust					✓								
GlobeTrotterz Travelz-Dream Vacations											✓		
Goodwill North Central Texas			✓										
Green Oaks Education and Support											✓		
HealthStreet								✓					
Healthy Zen Life								✓					
Help Me Grow North Texas								✓			✓		
Help Me Thrive North Texas								✓			✓		
Homestead Behavior Therapy												✓	
Kroger Health								✓					
Literacy United									✓	✓	✓	✓	
Little Connections Co.											✓	✓	
Metroplex Women's Clinic								✓	✓				
Maximus STAR Programs & THS Outreach								✓					
MHMR of Tarrant County		✓				✓				✓	✓		
My Possibilities		✓	✓							✓	✓	✓	
Mylar Health Services								✓					
North Texas Area Community Health Ctr								✓					
Northside Inter-Community Agency					✓			✓			✓		
Parent Pass									✓		✓		
Santa Fe Youth Services											✓		
Senior Assist Texas								✓					
Sentido Health DME								✓					
Shelter Community Services		✓	✓		✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	
Soundly Speaking Therapy Services												✓	
Spectrum of Hope												✓	
Stacy's Sensory Solutions												✓	
Star Medical Specialties								✓					
T. S. Griffin Law							✓						
Take A Step		✓	✓		✓	✓		✓		✓	✓		✓
Tarrant County Public Health CDP								✓					
Texas ABLE				✓									
The Arc of DFW Area	✓								✓		✓		
The IDD Council of Tarrant County	✓								✓		✓		
Tiff & Co LLC - ISS/Dayhab		✓								✓	✓		
Ultimate Caring ABA												✓	
Uniquely Abled Academy @ Dallas College			✓										
UNT ELEVAR			✓										
UTSW-N.TX Alzheimer's Disease Research Ctr								✓					
VIVA Pediatrics Healthcare											✓	✓	
Wenland Senior Solutions								✓					

EXHIBITOR DIRECTORY

We appreciate the sponsorship contributions from organizations marked with a star (★). Together we are Making Connections to disability resources in our great community. Please stop by their table and say thank you!

3 IN 1 ADVOCACY

682-382-0218

We are a special education advocacy service that helps redefine and facilitate how families collaborate with their child's school decision-making teams, how they advocate for their child's unique needs in the process, and how they remain informed as the primary experts in their child's life. We provide parent and adult student coaching and consultation, we assist with local and state complaints, we assist with drafting formal communications to schools, we assist with and accompany you to ARD OR 504 meetings, help draft IEP goals and more. We are your companion in the special education journey. www.3in1advocacy.org

★ ABUNDANCE HEALTH NETWORK

469-730-4648

Abundance Health Network provides compassionate, person-centered services to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) through the HCS and TxHmL programs. Our services focus on residential and community-based supports, behavioral, skilled nursing, therapies and more. www.abundancehn.com

ADAPTIVE EDGE FITNESS & SPELL TO EXPRESS

732-766-5343

Adaptive Edge Fitness: Adaptive personal training for children, teens, and adults with disabilities, focusing on strength, balance, coordination, motor skills, functional movement, and confidence. Spell to Express: S2C services for nonspeaking, minimally speaking, and unreliably speaking individuals ages 4+, supporting the motor skills needed for communication using a letterboard. https://linktr.ee/adaptiveedgefitness?utm_source=linktree_profile_share&itsid=e3a9f00b-29d3-41b5-86e8-e8af7f0e125d

AETNA BETTER HEALTH OF TX - STAR KIDS, STAR AND CHIP MEDICAID

Aetna Better Health is part of Aetna® and the CVS Health family, one of our country's leading health care organizations. We've been serving people who use Medicaid services for over 30 years. These include programs, like Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), care for the aged, blind, and disabled, as well as long-term services and supports.

ASSOCIATION FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING (AFIL)

214-351-0798

Please note we are not a group home. We are a residential life skills campus for neurodivergent young adults to learn independence skills and eventually live on their own. Each resident starts in a dorm setting with a roommate and then graduates to their apartment. The program is 4-6 years in length and is transitional. It is not permanent housing. www.afildfw.org

★ BEHAVIORAL INNOVATIONS

214-225-6559

Behavioral Innovations started with one center and one conviction: that every child with autism deserves expert, compassionate care – and that their family deserves a real partner. Twenty-five years later, that conviction hasn't changed. We now serve over 100 locations in six states, with 40+ in DFW. <http://www.startaba.com/>

★ BLOEMFONTEIN CARE SERVICES, LLC.

325-669-6604

Bloemfontein Care Services LLC is a Texas HCS provider dedicated to empowering individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) to live meaningful, fulfilling lives. We provide Residential Support Services (RSS), Host Home/Companion Care, Community First Choice (CFC), respite, nursing, behavioral support, Individualized Skills and Socialization (ISS), transportation, and other. <https://bloemfonteincareservices.com/about>

BRIGHTER FUTURES EDUCATIONAL THERAPY

Brighter Futures Educational Therapy serves students with learning and/or language differences in a 1:1 setting. We provide high quality intervention to help students close academic gaps. Located in West Arlington and serving all of central DFW. www.brighterfutureslearningcenter.com

★ **CALAB INC.**

CALAB Inc. stands for Community Assisted Living & Associated Benefits. We're an organization of individuals who believe we can provide a quality life to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Our goal as an agency is to help individuals needing assistance under the Texas ICF-IID Program, as well as the HCS and community waiver programs. www.calabinc.com

★ **CAREKAL HEALTH LLC**

214-937-0278

Carekal Health, LLC is a Texas-licensed and Medicaid-credentialed home health agency dedicated to providing compassionate, patient-centered care to children and adults, including individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) and special healthcare needs. Our services include skilled nursing, medication management and education, chronic disease management, wound and skin care, <https://carekalhealth.org/>

★ **CHAMPION SERVICES**

817-310-6630

Champion Services provides person-centered supports to individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities throughout the DFW Metroplex. We offer a variety of HCS services, including Group Homes, ISS, Host Home/Companion Care, Nursing, Adaptive Aids, Minor Home Modifications, Behavior Support, Physical Therapy, Speech Therapy, Dental Services, and Supported Employment. <https://www.championservices.org/>

COMMUNITY OPTIONS, INC.

972-503-3901

Community Options works with individuals with significant residential services, day programs, social enterprise that employ individuals with disabilities, high school transition programs, and specialized programs for respite and medically fragile adults. www.comop.org

★ **COOK CHILDREN'S HEALTH PLAN**

817-687-6816

We are a local, non-profit health plan that cares about our community. Our plan provides health coverage for CHIP, CHIP Perinatal, STAR (Medicaid) and STAR Kids Members in the Tarrant county service area. The counties we serve includes Tarrant, Johnson, Denton, Parker, Hood and Wise. Our health plan allows you to choose from many doctors, clinics, hospitals and specialty services. <https://www.cookchp.org/members/>

CROHN'S & COLITIS FOUNDATION, NORTH & CENTRAL TEXAS/ OKLAHOMA CHAPTER

214-991-3002

The Crohn's & Colitis Foundation, North & Central Texas/Oklahoma Chapter provides education, support, advocacy, and community resources for individuals and families affected by Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis. The chapter serves North and Central Texas and Oklahoma, including Dallas-Fort Worth, surrounding communities, and Oklahoma City. <https://www.crohnscolitisfoundation.org/chapters/nctx-ok>

EMBRACE YOUR PURPOSE OUTREACH CENTER INC

Housing for Individuals with IDD & Special Needs. We provide safe, stable, supportive housing for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and other special needs, serving children, adults, and seniors. Our goal is to provide a welcoming, person-centered home environment that promotes dignity, stability, community inclusion, and independence. We are located in the Fort Worth/DFW www.Eypoci.org

ENVISION DALLAS

214-821-2375

Envision's Mission: To improve the quality of life and provide inspiration and opportunity for people who are blind or visually impaired through employment, outreach, rehabilitation, education and research. <https://www.envisionus.com/>

FORT WORTH COMMUNITY LAND TRUST

817-710-5790

The Fort Worth Community Land Trust (FWCLT) creates long-term, attainable homeownership opportunities for Fort Worth families. We connect prospective homebuyers with homeownership opportunities, education, resources, and ongoing support while working with community partners to preserve affordability for future generations. FWCLT serves income-qualified households throughout Fort Worth, Texas fortworthclt.org

GLOBETROTTERZ TRAVELZ-DREAM VACATIONS

972-779-0044

GlobeTrotterz Travelz–Dream Vacations plans cruises, resorts, and group travel, with specialized support for autistic and neurodivergent adults and their families. Based in DeSoto, we serve Dallas–Fort Worth, surrounding North Texas communities, and travelers nationwide. GlobetrotterzTravelz.com

GOODWILL NORTH CENTRAL TEXAS

817-332-7866

As a not-for-profit leader, Goodwill offers job training and other services to help people with disabilities and disadvantages achieve their maximum independence. Through Goodwill, job seekers, individuals with special needs, families, and other members of our community gain self-esteem and become independent, self-sufficient citizens.

<https://goodwillnorthcentraltexas.org/>

GREEN OAKS EDUCATION AND SUPPORT

The mission of Green Oaks Education and Support, Inc. is to provide a quality, person-centered Christian education to individuals with Down syndrome and similar intellectual disabilities by offering them the opportunity to reach their maximum potential academically, vocationally, socially and spiritually; by recognizing the inherent God-given dignity of each person; by preparing them and offering <https://www.greenoakseducation.org/>

HEALTHSTREET

HealthStreet Community Health Workers provide our North Texas community members with free health screenings, health education, and linkage to medical/social service resources and research opportunities.

<https://www.utsouthwestern.edu/about-us/community/healthstreet/>

HEALTHY ZEN LIFE

469-990-8279

Healthy Zen Life provides education on LifeWave's drug-free wearable wellness patches that use light to support comfort, energy, sleep, mobility, recovery and overall well-being. We make this innovative technology easy to understand and experience. Serving North Texas and nationwide. <https://healthyzenlifelw.now.site/home>

HELP ME GROW NORTH TEXAS

844-689-5437

Help Me Grow North Texas connects expectant families through age 5 to child development services and community resources through one easy-to-access information line. Families and providers are connected with a Family Navigator, who offers guidance, developmental screening information, and referrals tailored to each family's needs, helping children access the right support at the right time. <https://helpmegrownorthtexas.org/>

HELP ME THRIVE NORTH TEXAS

844-689-8336

Help Me Thrive North Texas provides the best possible resources for all families with youth ages 6 up to 17 at no cost. We partner families and caregivers with a Family Navigator who is available to answer questions and link to community supports and services. <https://helpmethrivenorthtexas.org/>

★ HOMESTEAD BEHAVIOR THERAPY

214-699-7840

Homestead Behavior Therapy provides compassionate, personalized in-home ABA therapy for young children with autism and their families throughout the DFW area. Our services focus on building communication, social, play, and daily living skills through family-centered care. <https://www.homesteadbehaviortherapy.com/>

KROGER HEALTH

817-292-3777

Kroger Health is on a mission to help people live healthier lives. As the healthcare division of The Kroger Co., America's largest traditional grocer, we're committed to driving engagement in preventive and interventive care for all patients. www.krogerhealth.com

LITERACY UNITED

817-924-2000

Literacy United is a Fort Worth-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization founded in 2011 to provide high-quality literacy support to individuals who need additional help becoming successful readers. Originally established to address gaps in reading assessment and intervention for economically disadvantaged children in Tarrant County, Literacy United has grown to serve individuals of all ages and abi. <https://literacyunited.org/>

LITTLE CONNECTIONS CO.

682-214-0424

Little Connections Co. is an in-home early intervention practice supporting communication & feeding development, with a specialty in working with neurodivergent children. Our approach is DIR/Floortime based, meaning we focus on relationship & connection as the foundation for progress. We are Texas's only PLAY Project provider, serving kids & families in person in Fort Worth & virtually across TX. www.littleconnectionsco.com

MAXIMUS STAR/STAR+PLUS/STAR KIDS AND TEXAS HEALTH STEPS OUTREACH AND INFORMING

We represent Texas Health Steps Outreach & Informing, Texas STAR, STAR+PLUS, STAR Kids programs serving Medicaid children, families, and individuals. We educate members on how to use your Texas Health Steps Medicaid benefits, assist on choosing a medical and dental plan and a Primary Care Physician and complete plan changes if necessary. Texas Health Steps 877-847-8377 | Texas STAR 800-964-2777 | Special Populations Unit 877-782-6440

☆ METROPLEX WOMEN'S CLINIC

817-299-9599

Metroplex Women's Clinic has 4 clinics, 3 in Arlington and 1 in Fort Worth. All services are provided free of charge. We provide clinic-grade pregnancy testing/consultation, limited ultrasound, STI testing & treatment, prenatal and parenting education classes, case management, services for fathers and fathers-to-be, & material assistance to include baby/children's items and resource connection. metroplexwomensclinic.com

☆ MY HEALTH MY RESOURCES (MHMR) OF TARRANT COUNTY

My Health My Resources of Tarrant County (MHMR) provides community-based services for youth and adults with mental health conditions, intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD), and substance use disorders, as well as babies and young children with developmental delays. MHMR uses a person-centered care approach and partners with community organizations to provide services. <https://mhmrarrant.org/>

MY POSSIBILITIES

469-241-9100

My Possibilities is designed to provide people with cognitive disabilities the chance to continue their education. We provide vocational skills, socialization opportunities, trade skills, and independent living skills to HIPsters that give them the chance to live the life they deserve. <https://mypossibilities.org/>

☆ MYLAR HEALTH SERVICES

469-237-5250

Mylar Health Services is a licensed agency offering the ISS off-site waiver program only. Our Off-Site ISS services are available to individuals enrolled in the following Texas Medicaid Waiver programs: HCS, TxHml, DBMB. Off-Site Individualized Skills is a licensed, Medicaid-funded service that supports individuals with disabilities in building practical life skills out in the real world. www.mylarhealthservices.com

NEW YORK LIFE

469-408-6650

New York Life provides individuals, families, and businesses with financial education and personalized strategies designed to help protect what matters most and prepare for the future. Services include life insurance, retirement planning, investment strategies, college funding, employee benefits, business planning, and guidance for families navigating special needs and long-term financial planning.

NORTH TEXAS AREA COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER

817-625-4254 EXT1020

Northside Community Health Center provides comprehensive, affordable health care for individuals and families throughout the Fort Worth and Arlington areas. Services include primary care, pediatrics, OB/GYN and women's health services, eye care and ophthalmology, diabetes and blood pressure education with nursing staff, and mental health services provided by licensed therapists. [Northside Community](http://NorthsideCommunity.org) <https://ntachc.org>

NORTHSIDE INTER COMMUNITY AGENCY

817-626-1102

Our mission is to aid and uplift our neighbors, providing food and other resources, as well as fostering opportunities that strengthen families and our community. Most of our clients reside in the Northside of Fort Worth and we envision a community where all of our neighbors are thriving. Our guiding principles are to serve the community with dignity, empowerment, integrity, kindness, engagement, nicaagency.org

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NORTHSIDE INTER-COMMUNITY AGENCY (NICA)

We connect individuals and families with resources and opportunities that strengthen our community. NICA provides food assistance, basic needs support, case management, and programs for seniors, families, and youth, including Good Works, Community Closet, Aventuras Rising, and Leamos Juntos/Let's Read Together. We help our neighbors access resources, build connections, and thrive. <https://nicaagency.org/>

PARENT PASS

Parent Pass is a free app connecting families across Fort Worth and Dallas with free and low-cost community resources, events, and freebies, all in one place. From family-friendly events to food distributions, parenting classes, and local freebies, Parent Pass makes it easy to discover what's happening nearby. No sign-up fees, just real support for real families, right in your pocket! <https://parentpass.app/>

SANTA FE YOUTH SERVICES

817-492-4673

Santa Fe Youth Services provides free prevention and intervention services for substance use/abuse for residents in Tarrant County ages 12-25. <https://www.yapinc.org/santafeyouthservices>

SENIOR ASSIST TEXAS

214-914-5902

This is a state funded program that provides people with disabilities, such as hearing loss, vision loss, upper mobility loss, and speech limitations, with a FREE telecommunication device. We also have a phone that comes with a med alert button that summons someone to help in case of emergency. www.seniorassistentexas.com

SENTIDO HEALTH DME

817-541-6236

We are a DME provider offering a vast variety of medical supply & nutritional feeding formula products for children & adults. With a no-charge monthly home delivery service & immediate 'out-of-pocket' cost savings filing through the patient's Medicaid (or other health insurance) plan, our patients are treated with heartfelt care! www.SentidoHealth.com

SHELTER COMMUNITY SERVICES

469-778-0051

Shelter Community Services is a Texas-based corporation dedicated to providing compassionate care and essential services—including residential support, day habilitation, therapy, nursing, and adaptive aids—tailored to help individuals with intellectual disabilities or related conditions live independently in their communities across DFW, Austin, Houston, Longview, Tyler, and Nacogdoches. <https://www.sheltercommunityusa.com/>

SOUNDLY SPEAKING THERAPY SERVICES

214-934-8721

Soundly Speaking provides life changing therapy exclusively to adults with IDD through in person and teletherapy. Soundly Speaking's services include speech therapy, physical therapy, occupational therapy, dietary services, music therapy, and communication based behavior management. <https://www.soundlyspeakingtherapyservices.com/>

SPECTRUM OF HOPE

Spectrum of Hope provides ABA therapy for children, teens, and young adults with autism across Greater Houston and Fort Worth. We believe no one should decide what a good life looks like for another person. Our role is to help each individual reach the best version of their life, with their family right alongside them. www.spectrumofhope.com

☆ STACY'S SENSORY SOLUTIONS

972-599-1220

Stacy's Sensory Solutions is dedicated to helping individuals and families find practical, creative solutions for everyday life. With both an online shop and a storefront in Plano, Texas, Stacy's offers a wide variety of sensory tools, resources, and supports for individuals with unique needs. And when an off-the-shelf solution isn't quite right, Stacy's specializes in thinking outside the box! With an in-house seamstress and the ability to create customized products, the team is passionate about helping individuals and families find solutions tailored to the individual. Stacy's Sensory Solutions is excited to unveil its newest resource series, Breaking the Code! Life is full of situations that seem to come with unwritten rules—things we're somehow expected to know, even though no one ever clearly explains them. From understanding money and finding a job to exploring housing options or finding a dental routine that works with sensory sensitivities, navigating everyday life can sometimes feel like trying to crack a secret code. Breaking the Code was created to make those hidden rules visible. Each set breaks a topic into clear, understandable information and practical tools designed to build knowledge, confidence, independence, and self-advocacy. These are the first editions in the Breaking the Code series: The Basics of Personal Finance Edition, The Employment Edition, The Housing Edition, and The Dental Discovery Edition. <https://stacyssensorysolutions.com>

★ STAR MEDICAL SPECIALTIES

800-368-2065

Star Medical Specialties is a Provider for Enteral Feeding Pumps and Supplies, Special Formulas, Breast Pumps, Maternity Compression Garments, and Nebulizers. We are a WIC approved Provider. www.star-medical.net

T. S. GRIFFIN LAW

Tristan is the father of a child with a disability and an attorney who provides estate planning services (i.e., wills, special needs trusts, powers of attorney, guardianship, and more) for families of people with disabilities. His firm is based in Fort Worth, but he provides services to families throughout the state of Texas. www.tsgriffinlaw.com

TAKE A STEP

Take A Step LLC is an RN-led, trauma-informed Home and Community-based Services (HCS) provider dedicated to helping individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) live safely, meaningfully, and as independently as possible in their communities. Our services include residential support, host home/companion care, individualized skills and socialization (ISS), Community First Choi <https://takeastep1.com/>

TARRANT COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH CHRONIC DISEASE PREVENTION

817-370-4564

Free presentations and workshops over Chronic Disease prevention. Examples presentations: Asthma basics, Heart Health, HBP, Diabetes prevention, ALZ, Nutrition- Label reading and Fruits and Vegetables, Move and Groove, Stress Management, Healthy Sleep, Tobacco Awareness and more. Workshops: Live Tobacco Free, Chronic Pain/Disease Self-Management . Most are offered in English/Spanish.

TEXAS ABLE

844-489-2253

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, such as Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Medicaid. www.texasable.org

THE ARC OF DFW AREA

903-776-4955

The Arc of DFW Area serves the IDD community and their families through providing information and resources, regular training on IDD-related topics, advocacy opportunities, and ways to connect with others. Programs include ACE advocacy workshops, the A Look Ahead quarterly mini conference, Informed Empowered Parents (IEP series), Caregiver Support, and The Self Determination Group. thearcofdfw.org

THE INTELLECTUAL & DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL OF TARRANT COUNTY

682-253-5537

The Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Council of Tarrant County (IDD Council) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to fostering an inclusive community where people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) can thrive. We unite service providers, self-advocates, families, and community stakeholders to build a more efficient, accessible, and responsive system of support across Tarrant County. Through a wide range of initiatives, including educational workshops, family-friendly events, and our signature Making Connections Disability Resources Fairs, we create meaningful opportunities for engagement, learning, and advocacy. Whether you're looking to volunteer, become a member, sponsor an event, or simply learn more, we invite you to explore how you can make a difference. Visit www.IDDCouncil.org for details on upcoming activities, events, resources, and opportunities to get involved.

📱 [www.Facebook.com/IDDCouncil](https://www.facebook.com/IDDCouncil) 📱 <https://x.com/IDDCouncil> 📱 www.instagram.com/iddcounciloftarrantco
📱 www.linkedin.com/company/102678440

★ TIFF & Co LLC. - ISS/DAYHAB

817-217-14191

Tiff & Co is a program is dedicated to helping individuals build independence through everyday life skills, community outings, employment opportunities, volunteering, and giving back to the community, all while creating meaningful friendships and having fun! Our goal is to empower every individual to grow, learn, explore, and reach their fullest potential in a supportive/engaging environment. www.tiffandco.org

★ ULTIMATE CARING ABA

214-361-3551

Evidence-based Applied Behavior Analysis therapy delivered in your child's home — the most natural learning environment. Every plan is designed by a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) and implemented by our trained Registered Behavior Technicians (RBTs). We service Collin County www.Ultimatecaringaba.com

UNIQUELY ABLED ACADEMY (UAA) @ DALLAS COLLEGE

972-860-7600

Empowering uniquely abled individuals to achieve meaningful careers by matching their talents and strengths with high-demand employment opportunities in the manufacturing industry using Computer Numeric Controlled (CNC) machining skills. We are located at; Dallas College Eastfield Campus, 3737 Motley Dr., Building T Room T012, Mesquite TX 75150. UAA@DallasCollege.edu

UNT ELEVAR

940-369-8563

UNT ELEVAR is a four-year inclusive postsecondary education program for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) at the University of North Texas (Denton). The program's vision is to empower young adults with IDD who wish to continue postsecondary education (PSE) to become self-determined, independent, and healthy adults readied for integrated competitive employment. <https://elevar.unt.edu/>

UTSW - NORTH TEXAS ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE RESEARCH CENTER

The North Texas Alzheimer's Disease Research Center (NT-ADRC) is a comprehensive hub that supports innovative research, offers diverse training opportunities, and provides education that empowers both patients and caregivers. <https://www.utsouthwestern.edu/departments/north-texas-alzheimers-disease-research-center/>

★ VIVA PEDIATRICS HEALTHCARE

469-341-7772

VIVA Pediatric Healthcare offers a compassionate and comprehensive approach to meeting the medical needs of children from birth to the age of 20, from the comfort of their own home or in our specialized Pediatric Medical Day Centers (PPECC). Our services support families with children who have acute, chronic, or complex health conditions, providing everything from skilled nursing and therapeutic www.vivapeds.com

WENLAND SENIOR SOLUTIONS

817-233-6328

We are senior health insurance consultants and as such we participate in community events bringing awareness and information of the benefits that our elderly community qualify for that they might not be aware of. There are no sales involved during these events. myuhcagent.com/wendoleen.romero

DONATIONS & IDD COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP PAYMENTS MADE EASY WITH ZELLE®, PayPal, OR ON OUR WEBSITE!

Your support helps us with our mission to transform the region into an inclusive community where people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) thrive. For this, we thank you!



zelle®



<https://paypal.me/IDDCouncil>



<https://myqrcode.mobi/d2648a48>
(www.IDDCouncil.org/gift)

MAKING CONNECTIONS CENTRAL TARRANT HIGHLIGHT SPONSORS



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Medicaid
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25+ years

Helping people live healthier lives

At UnitedHealthcare®, we're dedicated to the communities we serve.
We believe nothing should stand in the way of quality, affordable health care.

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Healthcare

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Know Someone Who Needs IDD/Mental Health Services?

Adults: 817-335-3022

Ages 0-5: 844-NTX-KIDS (844-689-5437)

Ages 6-17: 844-NTX-TEEN (844-689-8336)

Mental Health Crisis: 800-866-2465



MAKING CONNECTIONS CENTRAL TARRANT HIGHLIGHT SPONSORS



855.782.7822

www.behavioral-innovations.com

Looking for a clear path from autism testing to meaningful support? We make it easier to move from an autism evaluation and diagnosis to a full-time or part-time ABA therapy program that fits your family's routine. Whether you are just getting started or ready to begin services, our team can help you take the next step with confidence.

One team. One plan. Ongoing support.

 Assessment & Diagnostics • Services for Young Children • In-person or Virtual Testing • Comprehensive Assessments • Dedicated Psychologists	 Center-Based ABA Therapy • 100+ ABA Centers • Personalized 1:1 Therapy • 20-40 Hours of Therapy • Expert BCBA & Therapists	 After-School Social Skills • Focused on Social Skills • School-Aged Children • After-School Program • Parent Involvement	 ABA Prep For Families • Weekly Sessions • For Families Awaiting ABA Therapy • Easy Transition to ABA • Foundational Skill Building
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Helping families with health care is our goal



Cook Children's Health Plan (CCHP) has been serving the Tarrant Service Area Medicaid and CHIP families since 2000, which includes Members across Wise, Denton, Parker, Tarrant, Hood and Johnson counties. We're affiliated with Cook Children's Health Care System, an integrated pediatric delivery system that has over a century of service to Texas residents. We ensure Members receive physical and behavioral health, pharmacy and social support services. At CCHP, we know applying for benefits can be hard, but we're here to help you with applying for or renewing Medicaid and/or CHIP.

If you have any questions or would like to make an appointment please email communitymarketing@cookchildrens.org. You'll be contacted directly with a member of our team for assistance."



UPCOMING IDD COUNCIL EVENTS



Caregiver Education Webinar

Belonging, Mental Health, and Self-Worth in Educational Settings Beyond High School



Tuesday, October 6, 2026
12 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.



Webinar Registration:
www.IDDCouncil.org

Who Should Attend?

- Parents & Caregivers
- Students & Self-Advocates
- Educators
- Transition Professionals
- Counselors & Support Professionals
- Community Partners

Education after high school should offer opportunities for connection, growth, independence and purpose. Yet bullying, social exclusion, pressure to navigate social expectations, and misunderstood differences can create barriers to belonging.

This webinar explores disguised ridicule, the effort of navigating social expectations, emotional distress and other challenges that may go unnoticed. Students, educators, families, and support professionals will explore practical ways to recognize harm, respond with empathy, and create environments where people feel valued and included. The presentation includes direct discussion of suicide, help-seeking, recovery, and rebuilding self-worth.

Drawing on his lived experience with intellectual and developmental disabilities, sensory processing differences, and mental health challenges, Jordan Smelley explores these issues in college, vocational training, and other postsecondary educational settings.



Presented by
Jordan Smelley, MHPS

Jordan Smelley, MHPS, is an internationally recognized, award-winning speaker and disability advocate who draws on his lived experience with intellectual and developmental disabilities, sensory processing differences, and mental health challenges. He is a Certified Mental Health Peer Specialist, Certified People Planning Together Lead Trainer, and developer of ASSUME a Sensory Reason™. Jordan serves as the first IDD Peer Support Specialist on Integral Care's Transition Support Team and as the Disability Advocate Representative on the Rehabilitation Council of Texas. His advocacy has been featured in the Wall Street Times, and he was recognized among MSN's Top 10 Leading Men in 2026. His work centers on belonging, accessibility, recovery, and the belief that disability does not define potential—support does.

Because Everybody Belongs

It's SANTA! It's SANTA!

Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus will be dropping by for photos, cookies, cocoa and crafts!

DECEMBER 7, 2026
6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

First Methodist Mansfield
777 N. Walnut Creek Dr.
Mansfield, TX 76063

Advance reserve time recommended, not required.

Registration coming soon at:

<https://www.iddcouncil.org>

This special Santa visit is designed for children and adults with sensory sensitivities or other intellectual or developmental disabilities (IDD), and their families. Event is free (donations appreciated), and all ages are welcome!

Presented by:



Hosted by:



Sponsored by:



The Intellectual
and Developmental
Disabilities Council
of Tarrant County

**You're
Invited!**

IDD Council Monthly Networking Meeting and Presentation *Exploring Chiropractic Care Benefits for People with Autism, IDD, and Neuromuscular Disorders*



Thursday,
November 5
9:00 – 10:30 a.m.



MHA Lone Star Room
at MHMR
3136 West 4th Street
Fort Worth, TX 76107

Join us for an informative session with guest presenter **Dr. Tori, D.C., M.S.**, Owner of **Sunlife Chiropractic**, to discuss chiropractic services for individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD), neuromuscular disorders, and sensory sensitivities. Learn how chiropractic care may support comfort, mobility, posture, overall wellness, and quality of life. We'll also explore adaptive approaches, considerations for sensory needs, Reflux and ADHD, and strategies for creating a positive healthcare experience for individuals with diverse abilities.

*Come learn, connect, and help lead
community-driven solutions that help transform
the region into an inclusive community where persons
with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) thrive.*



RSVP Today!
www.IDDCouncil.org

*We look forward
to seeing you there!*



The Intellectual
and Developmental
Disabilities Council
of Tarrant County



SAVE THE DATES

Making Connections North Tarrant
February 20, 2027

Making Connections Mansfield
March 6, 2027

Making Connections Community Resource Fairs connect individuals with disabilities, families, and caregivers with the resources and support available throughout our community. By bringing service providers and organizations together in one convenient location, attendees can gather information, ask questions, explore available programs and benefits, and make valuable connections. Making Connections Resource fairs are held each year at various locations throughout Tarrant County.

NOTES
