

The Gulf Coast of Texas African Family Support Conference (GCTAAFSC) would like to invite you to make an investment in the conference by becoming a 2015 sponsor. This year we have several sponsorship levels to support the conference. The levels include:

- Platinum -\$5000-Conference Underwriter
- Gold \$2500-Exhibit Center Underwriter
- Silver -\$1500- Consumer Sponsor
- Bronze -\$500-Outreach Sponsor
- Family \$250-Educator Sponsor

On Thursday, August 20, 2015, GCTAAFSC will have the fourth conference in Houston, Texas at the **Bayou City Event Center 9401 Knight Road Houston, TX 77045**. Our conference theme is **“All of Me Matters!”**

In 2014, the conference attracted over 275 individuals including industry professionals. The conference focused on the African American community, embraced all regardless of race or ethnicity, to participate in the ground-breaking opportunity. Attendees received valuable information about behavioral health, developmental disabilities, substance use and physical health issues impacting individual and families in the community. With the support of community leaders, the GCTAAFSC will be able to reach out to the community by providing access to resources in the areas of behavioral health, developmental disabilities and other areas of health disparities.

I would like to encourage you to join the collaborating partners: *Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities (funder/contributor), the City of Houston, Mental Health Mental Retardation Authority of Harris County, National Alliance on Mental Illness, Texas Southern University, Attention Deficit Disorder Association-Southern-Region, Texas Health and Human Services- Commission Center for Elimination of Disproportionality, Harris County Juvenile Probation Department, United Health Community and State Health Plan, Walgreens Pharmacy, and Austin Travis County Integral Care.*

The GCTAAFSC is an outstanding educational resource for our community and is especially worthy of your support. GCTAAFSC is hosted by Helpful Interventions, a 501 (c) (3) organization and all contributions are tax-deductible within the limits of the IRS Code.

The enclosure includes an introduction about the conference. I urge you to join us by attending the conference on Thursday, August 20, 2015 and making a meaningful contribution where it is most needed. Contributions may be received by Credit Card, Pay Pal, e-check or check via our sponsors' page on the conference website at gcaafsc.net. You may remit a check to Helpful Interventions at P.O. Box Houston, TX 77267 Tax ID # 56-2286610.

Sincerely,

Jerrilyn Hayes, LMSW-IPR
GCTAAFSC Project Director

Conference Host: Helpful Interventions * www.gcaafsc.net * jerrilyn.hayes@gcaafsc.net * 281.272.2206



Gulf Coast of Texas
African American Family
Support Conference



Gulf Coast of Texas African American Family Support Conference Mission

The mission of the conference is to strengthen family and individual awareness of available health care services, behavioral, and physical, through culturally sensitive education, supports, and partnerships.

The Need

The need to have quality and affordable services for behavioral health and intellectual disabilities expands across any race or ethnicity. The stigma of these conditions has yet to be eliminated.

- **Sixty percent** of African American adults do not receive needed services. Access to information can help reduce the stigma that serve as barriers to treatment. More of a concern, approximately **1 in 4 persons** may have a concern related to a disability:
- In Texas, more than **4.3 million residents** (*including 1.2 million children*) are living with some form of a mental health disorder.
- In the past 15 years, the rates of suicide among African American has increased by **233 percent** among youth ages 10-14.
- In the African American community, **92 percent** of males have depression, **60 percent** of families do not seek mental health treatment or receive the appropriate support.
- Untreated mental illness could result in incarceration, homelessness, unemployment, and substance use.
- Connecting individuals to resources can be a vital key in care and well-being. It is estimated that **75 percent** of African Americans will seek out mental health care from respected institutions, such as churches and community-based organizations.

The Gulf Coast of Texas African American Family Support Conference (GCTAAFSC) is addressing disparity of access of care and resources through education and partnership with stakeholders, community leaders and families who are living with physical, mental, and developmental disabilities. www.gcaafsc.net

Gulf Coast of Texas African American Family Support Conference History

2014 Conference- The conference year was kicked off in August 2014 with hosting a Mental Health First Aid Training. for the faith-based community. The conference welcomed Keynote Speakers, Dr. Rahn Bailey of Meharry Medical College and Bern Nadette Stanis, former TV personality from the 70's Show, Good Times. The conference theme, "**Overcoming Stigma Together: Changing Lives, Families and Communities**" challenged individuals, families and communities to attend to their physical, mental and spiritual health. Conference guests shared: "**Great information to apply to my life personally and professionally**"; "**Excellent speakers; genuine, engaging, I learned strategies that I will use...**" and "**I enjoyed the conference. I will return next year!**"

2013 Conference— Welcomed over 300 guests-consumers, professionals, clergy, family representatives, and community stakeholders to the conference themed, "**Embracing Healthy Families: Mind, Body and Soul.**" Conference keynote presenters , former NFL player Earl Campbell and his son Tyler Campbell, shared about a family's journey of living and coping with physical illness, mental health and substance abuse. **One conference guest favorably commented, "Thanks for the conference, it was awesome."**

2013 Faith-Based Summit - The faith-based, clergy, healthcare, social services and academia community attended the August 2013 Summit to engaged on the topic: **Mental Health, Spirituality and the African American community.** The attendees were enlightened on the importance of eliminating the stigma associated with mental health care and services. Many of the attendees shared that *the Summit* "**Gave encouraging information,**" "**Mental health was an excellent topic**" and would "**recommend the information to their ministers who have a passion for mental health.**"

Gulf Coast of Texas African American Family Support Conference History

2012 Family Breakfast Summit - Brought together family and community stakeholders to connect and interact with those who share common interest in support to individuals with disabilities and mental health concerns. One summit attendee shared: *“This conference [family breakfast summit] was very interesting. Most people at some point can experience struggles and life altering adjustments. The networking was great and I believe this will give me the opportunity for growth and learning. I look forward to next year [2013]”*

2011 Conference — The first conference themed, *Keeping it Real: Resources for Youth and Families*- came to life in Houston TX. The first Gulf Coast of Texas African American Family Support Conference brought the community together to gain new information and celebrate accomplishments. Some attendees shared: *“Excellent Conference for the first year!”* Another attendee stated: *“This conference's major achievement is bringing the stakeholders together and examining the gaps and disconnects in our community. It sets the platform to begin the work.”*

The success of GCTAAFSC is modeled after the Central Texas African American Family Support Conference (ctaafsc.org) in Austin, Texas.

Conference Supporters *(past and present):*

- The City of Houston-Health & Human Services
- Mental Health Mental Retardation Authority of Harris County
- National Alliance on Mental Illness
- Attention Deficit Disorder Association-Southern-Region
- Health and Human Services- Commission Center for Elimination of Disproportionality and Disparities
- Austin Travis County Integral Care
- Hogg Foundation for Mental Health
- Harris County Juvenile Probation Department,
- Walgreens Pharmacy
- People's Trust Credit Union
- United Healthcare State and Community Health Plan
- Institute for Urban Policy Research and Analysis (IUPRA)
at the University of Texas at Austin
- Conference Stakeholders from the Texas area

*In Texas, more than **4.3 million residents** (including 1.2 million children) are living with some form of a mental health disorder (texmed.org)*



Overcoming Stigma Together: Changing Lives, Families and Communities

[2014 Conference Theme]

Sponsorship Opportunities

Platinum Level—\$5,000- At this level, your generous contribution will be used to underwrite the conference, cover operational cost for one day and making GTAAFSC possible and the sponsor will receive:

- ◆ 10 conference registrations, reserved seating, complimentary exhibitor booth, logo recognition at the conference entrance
- ◆ Recognized in the conference event program, social media and website

Gold Level \$2,500 -At this level, your generous contribution will underwrite the conference exhibit center and the sponsor will receive:

- ◆ 6 conference registrations, reserved seating and complimentary exhibitor booth
- ◆ Recognized in the conference event program, social media and website

Silver Level \$1500- At this level your contribution will support consumers to attend the conference and the sponsor will receive:

- ◆ 5 conference registrations and reserved seating
- ◆ Recognized in the conference event program, website and social media

Bronze Level \$500- At this level your contribution will support promotion and outreach to the community about the conference and the sponsor will receive:

- ◆ 3 conference registrations
- ◆ Recognized in the conference program, website and social media

Family Level \$250- At this level your contribution will support family members to attend the conference and the sponsor will receive:

- ◆ 2 conference registrations
 - ◆ Recognized in the conference event program and website
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Conference Host

Helpful Interventions mission is to assess, educate, and support families helping themselves. **HI** has a significant history of providing services focused on supporting the entire family through various educational and supportive services in the Houston community.

Helpful Interventions, a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization, has filled a much-needed role of assisting families in accessing appropriate educational and social services to reach their highest potential since 1999. Helpful Interventions has served families and professionals throughout the Houston community. Helpful Interventions is providing leadership to the planning of GCTAAFSC . HI is working in close collaboration with diverse community stakeholders invested in addressing issues impacting the African American community in Houston, Texas.

Contributions may be received by Credit Card, Pay Pal, e-check or check via our sponsors' page on the conference website at gcaafsc.net. You may remit a check to Helpful Interventions at P.O. Box Houston, TX 77267 and Tax ID # 56-2286610.

Visit the Conference website www.gcaafsc.net or Contact Jerrilyn Hayes, Project Director
Email Jerrilyn.hayes@gcaafsc.net * Phone 281 272-2206.

The GCTAAFSC is a project of the Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities.

Disclaimer: The GCTAAFSC views contained herein do not necessarily reflect the position or policy of the funding agency. The Gulf Coast of Texas African American Support Conference Project is funded in part by the Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities. TCDD is awarded monies by the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Approximately \$49,998 (61 %) in federal funds and \$32,052.00 (39%) in non-federal funds.
