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Helpful Interventions

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Gulf Coast of Texas African American Family Support Conference- Family Breakfast Summit

*Houston, Texas– November 9, 2012—*First established in Austin, Texas 13 years ago, the second African American Family Support Conference (AAFSC) will be held in Houston, Texas in 2013. On Saturday, December 1, 2012, GCAAFSC will launch its’ planning with a groundbreaking Family Support Breakfast Summit from 9:45 a.m. -11:45 a.m. at the Power Center, 12401 South Post Oak Blvd in Houston, Texas77045.

We are also pleased to note the Honorable Representative Garnet F. Coleman, District 147, Texas House of Representatives will be the speaker for the family breakfast summit. The lifelong contributions of Representative Coleman have kept mental health issues and other related health disparities on the forefront in the State of Texas and on a national level. Representative Coleman will be the 2013 GCAAFSC honorary conference chairperson and has stated, *“This three-year project will strengthen people’s knowledge about both behavioral and physical health care services while working to reduce prejudice and eliminate health disparities for African-Americans,”* Coleman said. *“This will make it easier for individuals with disabilities to be fully included in their communities.”*

The conference host is Helpful Interventions, a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization, located in Houston, Texas. Since 1999, Helpful Interventions has a significant history of providing children and family services with a focus on supporting the entire family through various educational and supportive services and has also served families and professionals throughout the Houston community. Helpful Intervention also provides leadership to the planning of the Gulf Coast of Texas African American Family Support Conference in Houston, Texas.

Helpful Interventions is working in close collaboration with diverse community stakeholders invested in addressing issues impacting the African American community in Houston. Through this collaborative networking, more than 65 attendees are expected at this first ever free-community family breakfast summit. Community stakeholders, including social, health and faith based organizations, advocates, consumers and families are invited to take part in the summit. Attendees are invited to share their ideas on mental issues, physical and spiritual health, as well as developmental disabilities and substance use. The feedback and information gathered from

the participants' at the breakfast summit will be used in planning and shaping the conference that will be held in 2013.

The 2013 African American Family Support conference will expand the knowledge and skills of individuals living with a disability, along with their families and their allies. A special focus will target people with disabilities who are African American and/or who live in Houston and its surrounding areas. Conference attendees will also meet and learn from their peers and recognized experts to increase their capacity to promote the development of supports and services necessary for individuals with developmental disabilities to be fully integrated in their communities.

The City of Houston, MHMRA, of Harris County, National Alliance on Mental Illness, Texas Southern University, Attention Deficit Disorder Association-Southern-Region, Health and Human Services- Commission Center for Elimination of Disproportionality and Disparities and Austin Travis County Integral Care and many other organizations throughout the Texas area are involved in the planning of the 2013 conference. For more information, contact Helpful Interventions at 281-272-2206.

The GCAAFSC 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. Funding: Total cost of Project \$33,687 (48%) from the Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities and \$35,791 (52%) match from Helpful Interventions.*