

We encourage our community to continue learning about Texana Center, as a trusted governmental entity committed to **transparency** and **quality service**.

Since 1999, Texana Center has proudly served as the Local Mental Health Authority (LMHA) and the Local Intellectual and Developmental Disability Authority (LIDDA) for our region, supporting individuals and families with mental health issues, intellectual and developmental disabilities, and autism.

We understand that the **recent news** regarding the **voluntary discontinuation** of our Intellectual and Developmental Disability (IDD), Home and Community-Based Services (HCS), and Texas Home Living (TxHmL) Medicaid Waiver programs has led to some confusion that Texana Center is closing all programs, and that is certainly not true. Texana Center continues to **provide services** to those with **mental illness, IDD, and autism**.

The **article below** has the latest from our **CEO, Shena Ureste**, regarding this decision.

On **May 21**, Texana Center Board of Trustees and Senior Leadership Team made a difficult decision to voluntarily discontinue our **Home and Community Services (HCS)** and **Texas Home Living (TxHmL) Medicaid Waiver** programs for individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD).

Unfortunately, like many other public providers of IDD waiver services, we faced the reality that we **cannot sustain** quality care at the current Medicaid rates. The reimbursement rates for these services have not kept pace with the **rising costs** or allowed us to offer a living wage to our dedicated staff.

In past years, we bridged the gap using unrestricted funds, but those resources are no longer available. The expiration of COVID-related funding and an increasingly uncertain political climate—particularly around Medicaid funding—have made it **impossible** to continue offering these **optional services** without jeopardizing our ability to fulfill our **core responsibilities**.

We have **worked tirelessly** to ensure all clients are transitioned to the provider of their choice, with **over 150 active private providers** to choose from.

We have held numerous family meetings, provider fairs, and job fairs for staff to ensure a smooth transition. We are pleased to report that all clients will be **officially transitioned** to their new private provider on **Sept. 1**.

We are also pleased to report that many of the staff will transition to a new private provider employer.

Texana will continue to provide **service coordination** and **targeted case management** to these individuals as well as behavior supports, as described in the articles below.

We remain committed to supporting these clients and their families.

Texana Center continues to serve as the **Local Intellectual and Developmental Disability Authority (LIDDA)** for six counties, acting as the **primary point of entry** for individuals seeking services for IDD.

In this role, we determine **eligibility for services** that help individuals and families enroll in appropriate programs, including Medicaid waivers, and coordinate the ongoing support needed to improve quality of life and promote independence.

Our responsibilities include service planning, connecting individuals to appropriate resources, managing access to crisis intervention services, and facilitating transitions between institutional and community-based living arrangements.

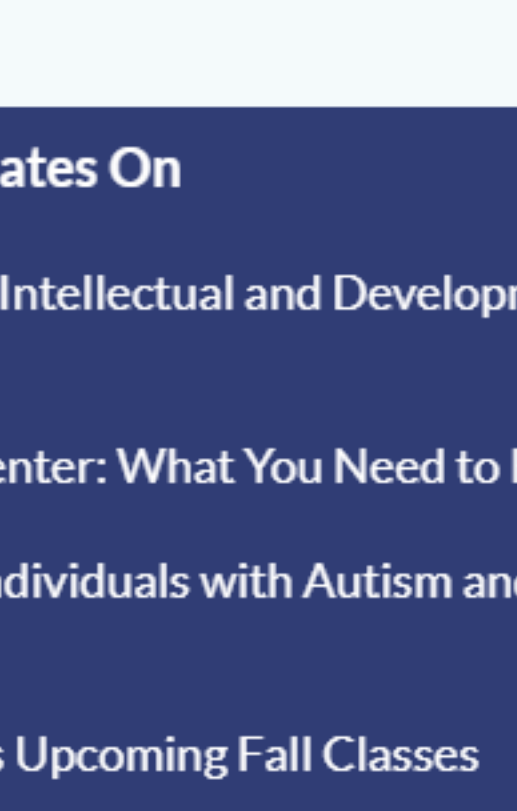
Through these efforts, we ensure that each individual receives personalized, person-centered care within their local community.

Lastly, I want to extend a **heartfelt thank you** to the **IDD Provider staff** who have supported these services for many years.

Your compassionate care, trust, and commitment to these clients are immeasurable and valued.

We wish you the best as you continue to serve these clients or with any new endeavors you have chosen. We will always consider you a part of the Texana family.

Shena Ureste
Chief Executive Officer



Inside this Issue: Find the Latest Updates On

- Understanding the Role of the Local Intellectual and Developmental Disability Authority
- Inside the Behavior Improvement Center: What You Need to Know
- Crisis Intervention Team Supports Individuals with Autism and Intellectual Disabilities in Crisis
- Center for Advancement Announces Upcoming Fall Classes
- Texana Center Now Accepting Online Donations

Understanding the Role of Local Intellectual and Developmental Disability Authority

The **Local Intellectual and Developmental Disability Authority (LIDDA)** is the division of each Community Center that is responsible for determining eligibility and coordinating services for individuals with an intellectual developmental disability (IDD) and/or autism living in the center's service area.


When a person contacts the LIDDA, an intake coordinator completes a questionnaire to assess their needs.

If it is determined that the person requires IDD services, the LIDDA schedules and conducts a psychological evaluation called a Determination of Intellectual Disability (DID).

The evaluation tests intelligence and adaptive behavior to determine if a person is eligible for services. This eligibility determination is the first step for a person with IDD to access all state or Medicaid-funded IDD services: Medicaid Waivers (HCS or TxHmL), ICF (Intermediate Care Facilities) group homes, or State Supported Living Center.

Once determined eligible, the LIDDA assigns a Service Coordinator responsible for assessing, planning, and monitoring services provided in the community.

"Although Texana Center is voluntarily terminating its contracts for the HCS and TxHmL Waivers, Texana, as the LIDDA, will continue to provide service coordination to about **2,000 individuals a month**," Sheri Talbot, IDD Authority Director, said.



Service Coordinators play a **key role** in the **protection of people's health and safety** by ensuring that clients receive the services they need to thrive in the community. They monitor services to people with IDD in their homes, group homes, day programs, and work sites.

In addition to service coordination, Texana Center, in its role as the Local Authority, will continue to provide crisis intervention support, such as crisis respite and specialized services for individuals with IDD living in nursing facilities.

Texana will also provide oversight of contracts with families for respite and habilitation services.

[Learn More](#)

Inside the Behavior Improvement Center: What You Need to Know

Texana **Behavior Improvement Center** is a short-term program for individuals aged three and older who live in our catchment area, which includes Austin, Colorado, Fort Bend, Matagorda, Waller, and Wharton counties. The program is designed to teach essential skills for success in both home and community settings, using principles of **Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA)**.

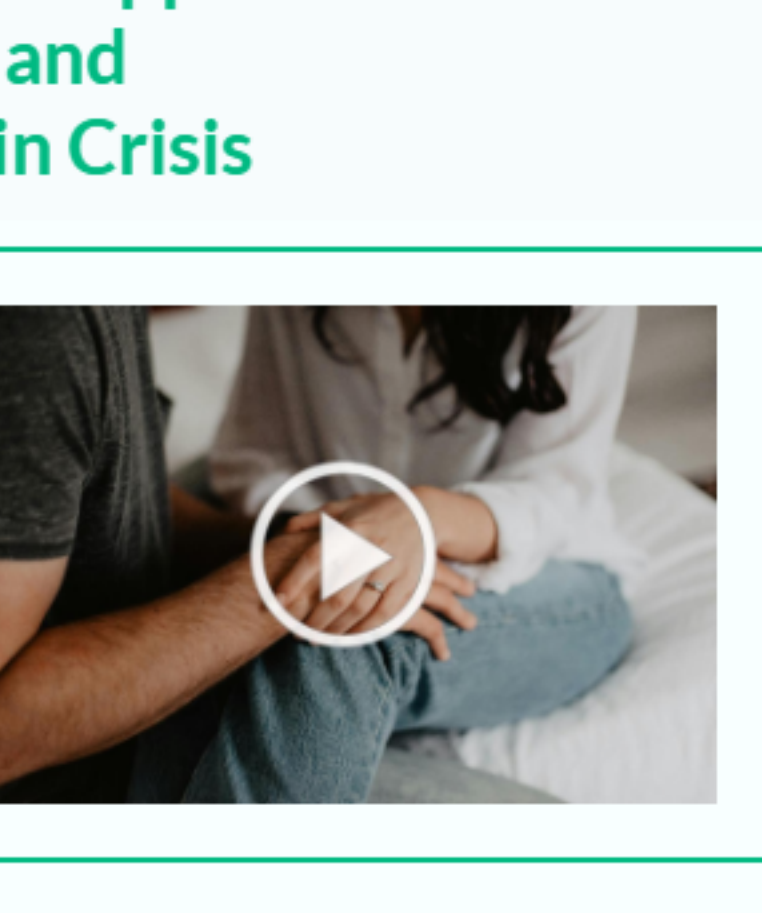
We hire Board-Certified and Licensed Behavior Analysts who develop effective strategies and provide person-centered training to individuals, parents, families, care providers, and educators. Our training focuses on social skills, independent living skills, community integration, and self-regulation.

Our mission is to empower individuals with autism and intellectual disabilities to thrive no matter where they are.

Texana Center uses an ability-to-pay scale for clients receiving general revenue funds in the six counties it serves. BIC works as a contract provider with private Home and Community-Based Services (HCS) providers on a case-by-case basis.

To enroll, contact **Texana Authority (Intake/Admissions) Services** at **281-239-1363** to begin the intake and referral process. A Determination of Intellectual Disability (DID) with a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder is required.

"Individuals who couldn't communicate now **communicate** their **wants and needs**, which **reduces challenging behaviors**," David Whitcher, Behavior Improvement Center Sr. Manager, said.



Crisis Intervention Team Support individuals with Autism and Intellectual Disabilities in Crisis

We offer crisis services to individuals six years and older with a diagnosis of an intellectual or developmental disability, autism, as well as challenging behaviors.

These services are intended to stabilize the behavior and to avoid hospitalizations, incarcerations, or restrictive placements.

We will assist individuals to learn coping skills and gain independence, so they can live safely with their family and in their community.

To begin the intake process and receive appropriate care for a diagnosis, contact us at **281-239-1363** or email **IDD-CIS@texanacenter.com**.

Our **24/7 Crisis Hotline** is also available at **1-800-633-5686**.

A Determination of Intellectual Disability (DID) with a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder is required for eligibility.



Make an Impact, Sponsor a Class This Fall and Change a Life!



This **fall**, Texana Center for Advancement is **offering several new courses**: digital marketing, money management, and dance classes. While also still providing courses like the Social Crafting and Social Connections Club.

Each program is designed to enhance social skills, independence, communication, problem-solving, attention and focusing skills, and a sense of self-worth.

"At the Center for Advancement, our mission is to help **build a bridge from secondary education to a more independent adulthood**. We provide transition services for teens and young adults with autism and IDD, while offering them a safe space to **grow their skills and confidence** for a more fulfilling life," Aaron Moore, M.S., BCBA, LBA, said.

Clients, ages **14 and older** with **autism and IDD**, work toward person-centered goals while enjoying hands-on learning experiences.

Through individualized courses, parent support, scholarships, and transition guidance, the center empowers families to make meaningful decisions about independence and long-term quality of life.

If someone is interested in taking a class, our fall classes will start from **Sept. 8 to Nov. 21**, with our fall break beginning **Oct. 13–18**, during the time where only Social Connections Club will meet.

Participants can register by emailing: classes@texanacenter.com and to opt out of the \$40 registration fee, be sure to register by **Sept. 2**.

It's important to stay connected with us, so you don't miss out on all the wonderful opportunities that can help families in need.

Reach out to us to learn about our programs, like our creative courses, Pre-Employment Transition Services and support, ABA-based group or individual social skills services, and our private pay options.

Many of these courses and our ABA therapy services are supported by the **Texas Workforce Commission**. Feel free to share this information with families in need of our services.

Giving Starts with You

We're excited to announce a new way to donate! Texana Center will be accepting **online donations**.

When you **donate**, you **choose your impact**. You can sponsor a young adult class, support a Texana program that's close to your heart, include personalized messages, or make a meaningful tribute in honor of someone special.

Your donation truly **changes lives**.

Every donation, no matter the size, helps expand access to quality care, resources, and equal opportunities for individuals living with **autism, intellectual and developmental disabilities, and mental health challenges**.

Make your impact by **donating today!**

[Donate](#)

- Resources to Share with your Network**
- 24/7 Mental Health Crisis Hotline
1 (800) 633-5686
[Learn More](#)
- Developmental Disabilities and Autism Crisis Services
IDD-CIS@texanacenter.com
[Learn More](#)
- List of Providers for Home and Community-Based Services
[Learn More](#)
- FAQ's: Texana Waiver Contract Termination
sheri.talbot@texanacenter.com
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