

# News Letter



2023



● ● ● November

## BACK TO SCHOOL

Our school-based services team, Project T.H.R.I.V.E., headed back to school this August to serve students and families in 3 of the Parker County School Districts! Thank you to Millsap ISD, Springtown ISD and Weatherford ISD for your partnership with Project T.H.R.I.V.E.!

*If you would learn about opportunities for getting involved in the System of Care please contact Ashley Lilavois at [alilavois@pecanvalley.org](mailto:alilavois@pecanvalley.org)*



Representatives from TIEMH & HHS came down to Weatherford in September for a site visit. We were able to have valuable discussions and brainstorm ways to continue building the Parker County System of Care.

Thank you to our partners with the State Teams for your leadership and insight !



## Core Values Spotlight: Family-Driven

Families are at the heart of the system of care approach. It is the parents, guardians, siblings, aunts, uncles, grandparents, or other people who make up a child's family and as such know, love, and support them in a way that caring professionals cannot. To ensure families are driving decision-making about the local system of care, families are invited to be critical members on governance boards, advisory boards, and workgroups relating to the System of Care. If you or someone you know would like to represent family voice please contact Ashley Lilavois at [alilavois@pecanvalley.org](mailto:alilavois@pecanvalley.org).

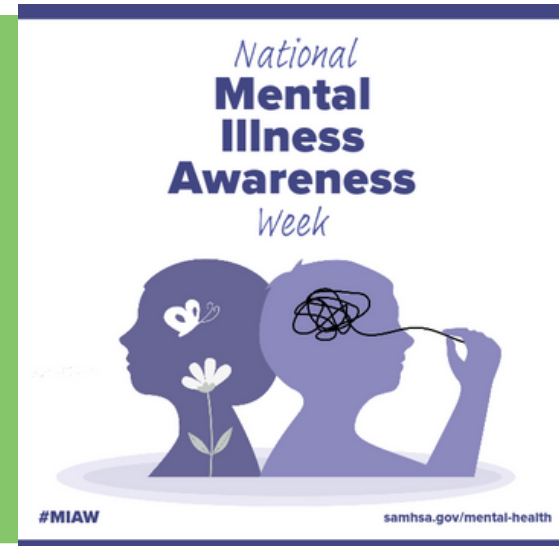
Learn more at: <https://txsystemofcare.org/about/communities/>

# Creating services Together, for more **Healthy youth** and families, that are **Renewable, Innovative,** **Viable, and Equitable**



## National Mental Illness Awareness Week 2023

“Millions of Americans are living with a mental health condition – mental illness affects everyone directly or indirectly through family, friends, neighbors or coworkers. During the first week of October (October 1–October 7, 2023), SAMHSA recognizes Mental Illness Awareness Week (MIAW) to raise awareness about mental health and provide support and treatment options for mental health conditions.” Our System of Care Governance Board shared the resources linked below with school counselors and various community members and family serving agencies around Parker County to raise awareness:  
<https://www.samhsa.gov/newsroom/mental-illness-awareness-week>



## Meet the School-Based Services Team

*If you see these friendly faces around your campus, say hello!*



*Alicia Whitaker - Youth Peer Support Specialist*

“I love to read and I am a novelist with one book published. I have always wanted to help youth, I used to tell my parents that ‘someday I’ll have a job helping other kids’. Being a Youth Peer Support Specialist and having mental health struggles of my own allow me to relate and understand youth in unique ways.”

*Ashten Wiedebusch - School-Based Counselor*



“I am a licensed social worker (LMSW) and the school-based counselor for Project T.H.R.I.V.E. I attended Abilene Christian University where I received a BS in Child and Family Services and MS in Social Work. I spent three years as a foster care case manager before joining Pecan Valley Centers. In my role as a school-based counselor, I conduct intake assessments and practice cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT) with students who are working through anxiety, depression, and trauma. I enjoy the work and feel blessed to be in a position where I am able to witness the progress my clients and their families make along their mental health journey.”

*Andrea Benitez - School-Based Case Manager*



“I am a recent graduate of Our Lady of the Lake University where I earned my Masters degree in Social Work. I have 10+ years experience in working with at-risk youth and their families. In my current role as a school-based case manager, my goal is to not only support students and their families, but also the school staff and to make my presence on campus worthwhile. In my free time I am either at home relaxing watching my favorite shows with my husband or running around taking my kids to sport games and practices!”

**If you or someone you know is experiencing a mental health crisis, Pecan Valley Centers crisis services are available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year by calling 1-800-772-5987**

# Upcoming Events!

**16**

**FEBRUARY  
2024**

WEATHERFORD COLLEGE EMERGING TECHNOLOGY BUILDING

225 COLLEGE PARK DR,  
WEATHERFORD, TX 76086



## **NEW YEAR, NEW RESOURCES** *COUNSELORS' SUMMIT*



**HOSTED BY THE PARKER COUNTY  
SYSTEM OF CARE**



Register Here!



Marcene Weatherall

*Parent Connection  
& Community  
Partnerships*



John Enright

*Teen Violence Dating Awareness Month*



Dr. TJ Jackson Shaw

*Intentional Self-Care for Counselors*