Overview of the Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services
- Introduction

Dr. Lakshmi Mahadevan: Hi, my name is Dr. Lakshmi Mahadevan, and I am program coordinator for the Career and Technical Special Populations Training and Resource Education Center at Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service. Welcome to this webcast on the Department of Aging and Disability Services in Texas. The Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services, or DADs, helps Texans with disabilities to transition to adulthood and beyond. DADs services help enable eligible individuals to make informed decisions about various critical needs, including community living, health services, family care, meals and hospice services. While these services are readily available to all Texans who need them it is important that parents, guardians, teachers and the individuals themselves are aware of how to sign up on the DADs website and avail themselves of the services that are available at appropriate times. In this webcast, Pat Morse, program manager at the Brazos Valley Center for Independent Living (BVCIL) will walk us through the process.

Pat Morse: In terms of talking about transitions stating at birth, and how crucial it is for parents at a very early age of a child’s diagnosis – to really feel like there are people in the community that can support them with accurate information. I’d like to review for you the state of Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services, we call that DADs for short. On their website they have specific instructions for how a parent can actually access their services. What I feel important about it is that parents -- because it’s overwhelming and it is a challenge just to get through all the information -- a lot of parents wait until transition meetings have already started and it’s apparent to them that their child may not be able to go to college or at that time really access independently services for themselves in the future. So, parents need to make a choice on that.