



Meeting Notes

January 22, 2020

9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Paso del Norte Health Foundation

221 N. Kansas, 19th Floor, Conference Rm. C

Attendees:

Joel Bishop
Sharon Butterworth
Brad Cherry
William “Bill” Cox
Chrystal Davis
Rosa P. Duran
Amanda Frizzelle
Beatrice Giron
Michael Gomez
Cindy Hernandez
Juanita Galaviz
Enrique Mata
Robert Pisarcik
Eddy Payan
Mayra Ramos
Henry Rivera
Victor Talavera
Joseph Villescascas
Richard Wiles

Representing:

El Paso County
Paso Del Norte Health Foundation Board
Emergence Health Network
Public Defender’s Office
Emergence Health Network
Emergence Health Network
County Attorney’s Office
El Paso County Re-entry
County Attorney’s Office
Emergence Health Network
Paso del Norte Health Foundation
Paso del Norte Health Foundation
EPPD CIT
Public Defender’s Office
EPSO
City Rep. District 7
Emergence Health Network
NAMI El Paso
EP County Sheriff and Chair Justice LC

Welcome and Introductions

Sherriff Richard Wiles convened the meeting at 9:35 a.m. The meeting began with introductions followed by an overview and update by Enrique Mata on the closing of UTEP ‘s grant for the Empower Change program. He mentioned that duties would transition back to the Health Foundation.

2020 Update to Behavioral Health System Assessment (BHSA)

Mr. Mata spoke on the need for revisiting the BHSA. The last assessment was done in 2013 and published in 2014. That document has been an asset in planning and strategy development to address gaps. He called the group's attention to the scope of work for Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute (MMHPI) and welcomed additions or edits from the group. He added that the 2014 Assessment was collaboratively funded and that any organization willing to contribute to the 2020 assessment is welcome. Mr. Mata reinforced that commitments to collaborate are just as important as monetary contributions and recognized that contributions of time, reports, and other data will be vital to developing a quality document. A proposal was requested from MMHPI on January 10th and will be submitted in February with a targeted start date of April 1, 2020.

Sequential Intercept Map Reflections 2014 – 2019

Mr. Mata called the group's attention to the 2014/2019 sequential intercept map (SIM). He congratulated all the JLC partners for all the improvements developed in the past 5 years. Ms. Edy Payan also expressed how impressed she was with the progress made in the community.

Crisis Intervention Team

Lt. Robert Pisarcik began by congratulating one of his officers that was awarded the Life Saving Award for his treatment and excellent follow through during a crisis intervention. He proceeded to mention the following:

- They are currently working to track mental health calls more efficiently with computer aided dispatch (CAD). The CAD identifies calls and makes assessments on Mental Health issues.
- CIT has handled over 5694 calls for service – not all these calls were mental health related.
- 1237 received services and were placed on an emergency detention (ED)
- CIT assisted in executing 246 ED orders including:
 - execution of a warrant drawn up by hospital staff in which the CIT sign the warrant for a person is already detained in the hospital, and
 - requests that come in from the County Attorney who have a warrant on file and request that the person be located.

Victor Talavera stated that additional training and refresher courses are being done at least once a month for the unit. Attrition on the teams has been low after year one. A reduction in duplicated encounters and recidivism seems to be trending likely due to the community welfare checks/follow up process that the CIT unit has implemented. EHN recently hired a new CIT Community Outreach Specialist who will assist in putting together training for the unit and conducting community outreach. The focus for this position is to educate the public on the goal and purpose of the unit to further increase its profile and recognizability in the community. This community outreach specialist will be able to conduct presentations upon request.

Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT)

Brad Cherry and Cindy Hernandez with Emergence Health Network updated the group on a recent site visit to Las Cruces where a cohort from El Paso got to see the Dona Ana County AOT project that is now in its 4th year of SAMHSA funding. Mr. Cherry explained that SAMHSA has extended an opportunity for the community to submit a proposal for a similar 4 year grant for El

Paso County to explore an AOT model. The proposal is being developed and will be submitted by EHN.

Reentry

Joel Bishop began by thanking the Sheriff for his ongoing support, including allowing the use of a block of cells for the reentry program. He commented that there is an active partnership with UTEP for evaluation of the program. He asked Ms. Beatrice Giron to share additional details. She explained that the program had its first graduating class of 34 inmates. Some of the graduates remain in the cell block and are assisting with creating a positive culture for incoming inmates. The program continues to receive referrals and many community organizations have stepped up to provide support for reentry. For example, a strong partnership with Work Force Solutions for job placement and training now exists.

Ms. Giron mentioned the work of the Reentry Care Managers who implement a care plan for each program participant while incarcerated that is continued in the Community by the Community Reentry Team, upon the participant's release. There are 72 slots available in the Jail Reentry Program that remain at full capacity monthly. The program is 60 to 90 days long. Different providers will come during this period to provide services, counseling and training.

The Reentry Division received 105 referrals for the Jail Reentry program, Project Chance, and for Reentry Support Services in the community, combined, for the month of December. Out of the 33 clients in the community caseload, 16 are prior Project Chance-Jail Reentry participants who have released from jail.

Mr. Bishop ended by mentioning that the opportunity to reduce recidivism is clear based on our baseline research and what we know has worked in other jurisdictions.

Jail Diversion Committee

Edy Payan began by mentioning the tour to Rio Vista Behavioral Health. She explained that the Committee has great participation and invited anyone in the JLC interested to participate in the Jail Diversion Committee meetings. She added that the Rio Vista Behavioral Health facility is something to see.

Other Business

Mr. Mata mentioned the current work of the FLC to address the increase in youth being charged with felonies as a result of being caught in possession of THC Vape products. He recognized the contributions that the County Attorney's office made, especially Ms. Emily Dawson. He showed the group where to access the tools for parents that are now available for download at www.healthypasodelnorte.org/thcvaping. He urged members to help disseminate the tools to parents, schools and organizations that serve children. Representative Henry Rivera shared his support for the effort and mentioned more alarming graphics need to be produced and disseminated among youth and parents.

Adjourn

Sheriff Wiles adjourned the meeting at 10:40am.