

OF THE EL PASO BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CONSORTIUM

Meeting Notes

September 16, 2020 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Via Zoom Virtual Platform

Representing:

Attendees:

Joel Bishop El Paso County

Sharon Butterworth Paso Del Norte Heath Foundation Board

Brad Cherry Emergence Health Network
April Corral Emergence Health Network
William "Bill" Cox Public Defender's Office

Chrystal Davis Emergence Health Network
Rosa P. Duran Emergence Health Network
Amanda Frizzelle County Attorney's Office

Beatrice Giron El Paso County Re-entry
Cindy Hernandez Emergence Health Network
Juanita Galaviz Paso del Norte Health Foundation

Enrique Mata Paso del Norte Health Foundation

Kyle Mitchell Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute

Robert Pisarcik EP Police Department CIT Edy Payan Public Defender's Office Mayra Ramos EP County Sheriff's Office

Henry Rivera City Rep. District 7

Victor Talavera Emergence Health Network Sonia Morales-Villescas El Paso Psychiatric Center

Richard Wiles EP County Sheriff and Chair Justice LC

Anna Basler-White Emergence Health Network Tracy Yellen Paso del Norte Foundations

Welcome and Introductions

Sherriff Richard Wiles convened the meeting at 9:35 a.m.

2020 Update to Behavioral Health System Assessment (BHSA)

Mr. Mata introduced Mr. Kyle Mitchell, JD, Vice President of Adult and Veteran Policy at Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute. Mr. Mitchell provided a brief overview of progress to date on the 2020 El Paso Behavioral Health System Assessment. Mr. Mitchell emphasized data collected related to the justice system and highlighted some key indicators. The PowerPoint slides from this presentation are included with these notes.

Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT)

Ms. April Corral with Emergence Health Network updated the group on a recent progress in development of an AOT program for El Paso County. Ms. Corral commented that the startup opportunity is a component of a recent federal grant to Emergence Health Network now that they are recognized as a Certified Community Behavioral Health Center (CCBHC). She proceeded to report on the details of the project with the assistance of PowerPoint slides included with these meeting notes.

Recidivism and Reentry

Ms. Beatrice Fierro provided an overview of the progress with reentry programs. She explained that they are currently focusing on homeless individuals. During the COVID pandemic this population has really kept their team busy. She thankfully recognized all the contributions and support from the Sheriff, Council of Judges, Public Defenders, Bailiffs, shelter staff, the welcome center and so many others.

Their programs provide support and follow up immediately after release and ongoing. Since May there have been 203 referrals. The program is now getting assistance from Deputies to transport individuals to the welcome center or the Psychiatric Center.

Mr. Henry Rivera asked what happens if you have someone who refuses the services? The Team assesses individuals within 72 hours of arrival for booking. They are not obligated or mandated to be part of the program. Not all of those booked are assessed because many are released well before they can be assessed.

Ms. Jennifer Mond commented that she is thankful for all who are helping with this program. She reinforced how important the program is and what a huge success it is to get individuals in need transported to the welcome center.

Sheriff Wiles asked about the vision to expand the program to serve other populations within the system such as those with addiction problems. Ms. Fierro commented that the program started with individuals who are homeless and veterans. Now Project Chance is developed. The goal is to eventually expand to serve all populations. She added that they are seeking grants to capture everyone leaving the jail by developing a pre-release unit that would help with continuity of care. Sheriff Wiles expressed his appreciation and continued support for these programs.

New Developments in the Crisis Intervention Team (CIT)

Sheriff Wiles reported that he recently presented a proposal to the County Commissioners Court for support to start up a CIT unit in the county. The project will be a backup to the City unit. His original request was for 12 teams. The Court approved a preliminary startup that will be assigned to Commander Ryan Urrutia and will be modeled after the city's unit because they have been doing such a great job. The Sheriff added that his office will work to get the unit up and running by April 2021 and that perhaps in the future CIT can be one unified team for both the city and the county.

Sheriff Wiles then called on Victor Talavera who provided a brief report. He commented that in the past 6 months, encounters have increased by 21% in comparison to the first part of this year. The pandemic is having an impact the severity of situations. Of all encounters in the last 6 months the number of people being transported to inpatient care has increased. Emergency room (ER) diversion is doing their part keep people out of the ER. The number of people who are assessed and transported to other sources increased. They also do welfare checks and follow ups based on referrals due to suicidal ideation. In the last 6 months these checks have increased and are high priority. Some changes were made in the schedules to address peak call times. Mr. Talavera responded to questions from the group. He added that encounters have been adults, middle-aged and older, but the younger population is increasing likely because the kids have not been able to start school yet. The numbers of individuals under the influence of a substance have been steady in the evening, but now encounters are starting to be seen throughout the day. The welfare check approach is showing positive results. Individuals are glad that someone checked on them. In cases where more support is needed, they are able to get individuals connected to help thereby preventing a crisis situation.

Jail Diversion Committee

Edy Payan and Jennifer Mond commented that the Jail Diversion Committee Meetings are continuing via virtual platform. Jennifer asked that anyone who is interested in participating in Jail Diversion Committee meetings to please email her at: jmond@epcounty.com.

Other Business

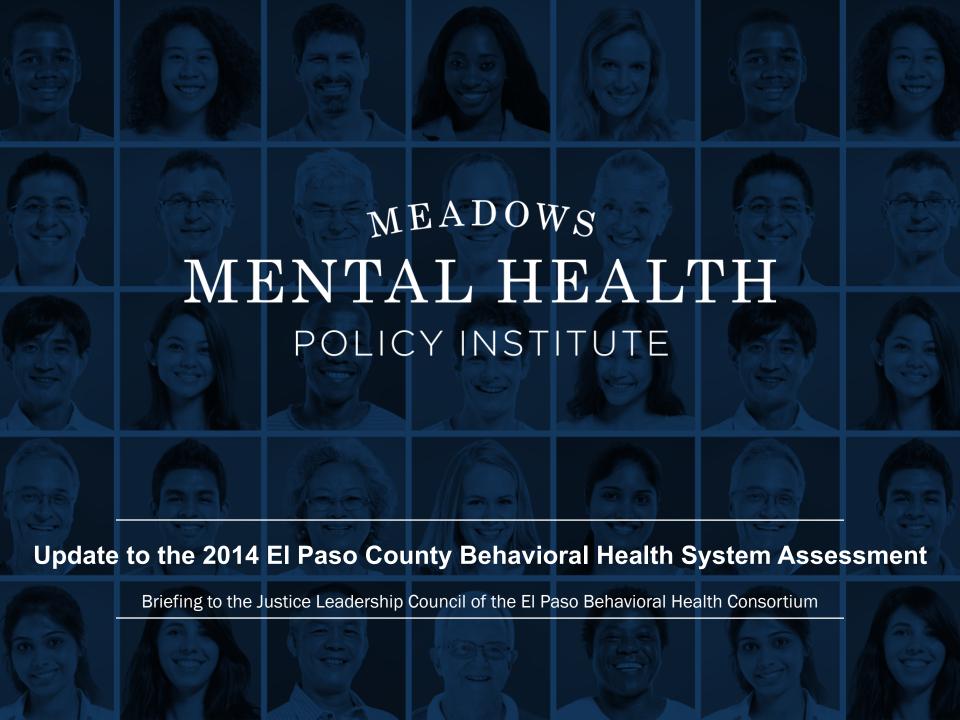
Magdalena (Maggie) Morales-Aina, Director of Adult Probation, provided an overview of the adult probation response to COVID 19. She explained that over the past 25 years, the department has reframed the role of probation. They have a great partnership with EHN and have made changes in response not just to COVID 19, but also in response to justice reform. The El Paso County CCD Team members are trained in trauma informed care and in programs that include AOT, etc. They can create supervision plans and case plans including retroactive review to address individual needs. They are one of the top ten CCD counties in Texas. Ms. Morales-Aina recognized Dr. Jennifer Eno Louden for her support of programs in the department.

She provided a brief tour of the center showing the safety precautions in place so individuals can enter the center and complete a hearing. They are helping the courts clear their dockets in this tough time. Ms. Morales-Aina also recognized Brad Cherry from EHN for his collaboration.

Mr. Mata requested for all JLC Members to set aside the morning of Wednesday, October 14^{th} from 8:30 am to 11:30 am for the 6^{th} Annual El Paso Behavioral Health Consortium Progress Summit. He stated that a flyer will be disseminated to all this week with additional details to be circulated as the meeting date nears.

Adjourn

Sheriff Wiles adjourned the meeting at 10:45 am.



Our Primary Deliverables

We are providing an update to the 2014 assessment. Specifically, we are working on three critical elements:

- 1. Crisis system improvement analysis;
- 2. Children's mental health strategy development for high risk children including the juvenile justice system; and
- 3. Overall access to services.

2014 Assessment as Guide

Ten findings and recommendations from the 2014 assessment will guide our 2020 engagement.

El Paso Community Behavioral Health System Assessment

Final Summary of Findings and Recommendations



February 2014





Leveraging Other Work in the El Paso Region

 MMHPI is currently conducting a comprehensive review of the systemic impact of the El Paso Police Department and Emergence Health Network Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) partnership.



Leveraging the CIT Evaluation for the Assessment

1. Portions of the funded CIT evaluation include hospital psychiatric emergency presentations and jail presentations and associated costs are both being measured through an intensive time study for direct CIT impacts.



Leveraging the CIT Evaluation for the Assessment

2. Data is being collected for connections to care after jail release, and client self-reported health related quality of life for those with CIT diversions will be compared to the same assessment for persons with mental illness booked into the jail to determine if there is a correlation in improvement in quality of life and CIT diversions.



Example of Data from the CIT Evaluation

- Of the average first-time releases (5,179) who were not released to other custody (county, state, or federal), 29% (1,482) had a record in EHN at any time.
- Of those with a record at EHN, only 17% (258) reconnected to EHN within 90 days of release and a subset of 29% (75) were rebooked into jail within 90 days compared to 26% (315 of 1,225) of those with an EHN record who did not reconnect to EHN.

Leveraging the CIT Evaluation for the Assessment

3. For police measures we are looking at call for service rates and areas of the city with the highest rates of emergency detentions to determine if CIT has had an impact of reduction in those high need areas.



Leveraging the CIT Evaluation for the Assessment

4. We are also measuring officer impressions of mental illness across the department as well as impressions of resources available to them for mental health crisis calls for service to demonstrate the attitudinal and resource knowledge impact to the department's workforce since implementation of CIT.



Leveraging Other Work in the El Paso Region

MMHPI is currently leading an assessment of El Paso County's provision of indigent defense, which will serve as both a spot check on changes made following a review 5 years ago by the Texas Indigent Defense Council and a roadmap for the new Chief Public Defender, who should start Summer 2020.



Example of Data from El Paso Jail High Utilizer Analysis

- 3.6% of the releases with a mental health indicator were High-Utilizers (4 or more releases in the year) compared to less than 1% of those releases with no mental health indicator.
- The individuals with a mental health indicator had longer arrest histories – those released one time had an average 7.3 offense arrests prior to the release date compared to those with no mental health indicator who had an average 3.1 prior offense arrests.

Our Assessment will include Quantitative Data Analysis

We will provide analyses of:

- Prevalence based on national data that consider Texas-specific demographic and poverty data for El Paso County;
- Licensed psychiatric bed capacity and utilization rates over the past year for each hospital in the region;
- Existing publicly-funded mental health and substance use disorder programs and their use;



Our Assessment will include Quantitative Data Analysis (continued)

We will provide analyses of:

- Costs associated with hospitalization and emergency department use for psychiatric disorders, if available; and
- Costs associated with local community mental health programs.

Our Assessment will include Qualitative Data Analysis

- Key informant interviews with more than 70 local stakeholders
- Review of key documents from stakeholders, the state and other sources
- Integration of quantitative analysis with qualitative findings

Key Informant Justice Interviews

El Paso Public Defender Office

- William Cox, Interim Chief Public Defender
- Edy Payan, Division Chief
- Alex Ruiz, Chief Social Worker

El Paso County Justice Support and Community Services

- Joel Bishop, Executive Director
- Bea Fierro, Re-entry Program Manager

Key Informant Justice Interviews (continued)

El Paso County Attorney's Office

- Jo Anne Bernal, County Attorney
- Amanda Frizzelle, Trial Team Chief, Mental Health Division
- Michael Gomez, Mental Health Division
- Emily Dawson, Tria Team Chief, Juvenile Division
- John Unterer, Civil Litigation and Mental Health Division Chief

Key Informant Justice Interviews (continued)

 Associate Family Court Judge Kathleen Anderson

City of El Paso

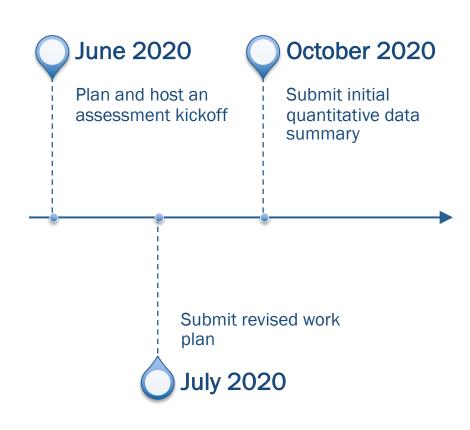
 Nicole Ferrini, Chief Resilience Officer and Director of Community + Human Development



Timeline 10 Months

Ongoing meetings

We will host ongoing monthly meetings with the system assessment implementation group to provide updates on our progress and solicit feedback on the summary of draft recommendations and the draft report.



Timeline cont.







