



Meeting Notes

January 12, 2021

8:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

Via ZOOM Virtual Platform

Attendees:

Dr. Sylvia Acosta
Juan Alderete
Tracy Almanzan
Shelia Anthony
Stacy Barnett
Sharon Butterworth
Manny Castruita
Juanita Galaviz
Cathy Gaytan
Gilda Gil
Santiago Gonzalez
Jeanette James
Marivel Macias
Dr. Sarah Martin
Alex Martinez
Roger Martinez
Enrique Mata
Dr. Carmen Olivas-Graham
Jennifer Phelps
Kathy Revtyak
Lourdes Rivera
Beth Senger
Ivonne Tapia
Isidro Torres
Richard Salcido
Ashley Sandoval
Alejandra Valdez
Kathie Valencia
Albert Villa
Claudia Woods

Representing:

YWCA El Paso Del Norte
Region 19 ESC
65th District Court
Emergence Health Network
Amerigroup
Mental Health Advocate
El Paso Independent School District/EPaDOG Chair
Paso del Norte Health Foundation
El Paso Child Guidance Center
Paso del Norte Children's Development Center
El Paso Human Services
Cohen Veterans Network at Endeavors El Paso
Socorro Independent School District
Texas Tech Health Sciences Center of El Paso
Amerigroup
County of El Paso Juvenile Probation Department
Paso del Norte Health Foundation
Socorro ISD/ El Paso Comm. College Board
El Paso Independent School District
El Paso Child Guidance Center
El Paso Independent School District
El Paso Center for Children
Aliviane
NAMI El Paso
Family Service of El Paso
Emergence Health Network
NAMI El Paso
El Paso Center for Children
Region 19 Education Service Center
Emergence Health Network

Welcome and Introductions.

Ms. Tapia convened the meeting with introductions from all attendees.

El Paso Area Directors of Guidance (EPaDOG)

Mr. Manny Castruita, Educator, Counselor, and a member of the School Mental Health Work Group provided a presentation on the importance of sensitivity, patience and understanding with a child and family are referred from the school to mental health providers.

Mr. Castruita provided an overview of the El Paso Area Directors of Guidance (EPaDOG). The group includes Directors of Guidance from all 11 school districts. They discuss topics such as outreach and education to support children and youth. He explained that the Director of Guidance are identifying needs that external agencies could provide for proper care and support related to COVID 19 school shut downs. There is a great deal of fatigue and depression in children. The number of children in CPS greatly increased in recent months.

Mr. Castruita then set the stage for a discussion on cultural diversity. He posed several questions to the group:

- “What role does racial equity have in mental health and access?”

The group responded an an long discussion took place with committee members.

Sharon Butterworth informed the group that the Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute (MMHPPIO) is developing a glossary of terms so that everyone is on the same page when talking about cultural and mental health issues. The document will be translated into Spanish and available soon.

Enrique Mata added that discussions on the depth and breath of mental health stigma and cultural competence need to occur regularly.

Mr. Castruita indicated that school counselors need to be trained on starting conversations when two parties have a conflict.

- When people are referred, how do the agencies deal with those clients and make them feel important, give them the attention needed and not lose the patient’s trust?”

Dr. Acosta indicated that it is a challenge. Some don’t admit that there is a problem. The application for assistance is difficult. The client must complete a 17 page application. This need to be transitioned to an at least 3 page application. The YWCA is providing a Racial Justice Facilitator training for staff. This is a 21 day training that will also be offered to the community. It provides a self reflection on our own internal bias. The 21 day online training will happen in March 2021.

Ms. Tapia thanked Mr. Castruita for leading this important conversation. She recommended that counselors continue to call the leadership of the serving organizations when services are not provided in a professional manner.

Strong Families- Families in Communities

Ms. Kathy Valencia introduced the Co-Chairs:
Stacy Barnett, Alex Martinez, Lourdes Rivera, and Sheila Anthony

Ms. Valencia provided a Power Point presentation (provided in with these notes). Ms. Stacy Barnett provided a quick overview on the December meeting. Ms. Shelia Anthony provided an update on the Family Advisory Committee. They have broken area by zip codes to better discuss the needs in each area.

Help Me Grow

Ms. Gilda Gil provided an update on the Help me Grow project. The next meeting is scheduled for 01-13-2021. They have established a centralized access point. Point of access is where anyone can find referrals to available services. Discussion to address barriers will take place at the next meeting.

Community Collaboration Committee

Kathy Revtyak reported on the CCC. The next meeting is Thursday 02-11-2021 at 8:30am. The committee is improving the coordination of agencies. For example, one of the collaboration is where Trauma Informed will include Anti Stigma bias modules at an organizational and individual level. Meeting notes from this and past meetings can be found on the website.

Ms. Tapia mentioned that this is the positive affects of colaboration. To provide the same messaging and developing strong partnerships. Together we are able to offer the best services possible.

Foster Care Work Group Ms. Gina Martinez was not available to provide an update this month.

CPAN/TCHAT Work Group

Dr. Sarah Martin provided an update on the Texas Tech projects. She shared a report with the group . She mentioned that El Paso is keeping up with the rest of the state and in many areas are ahead in many areas. The state of Texas provides a quarterly status report. All 4 of the El paso project are rated 1st, 2nd or 3rd in all the state of Texas. It has been difficult for the schools to spend the funds due to COVID. She'll share the presentation with Mr. Mata to share with the FLC members.

Other Business

Mr. Mata provided update on MMHPI report.

MMHPI started gathering data in community as they did in 2014. A draft version of the report can be accessed in the Healthy PDN website. Please review and provide feedback on anything that is missing. Please be candid.

Mr. Roger Martinez shared that he was very impressed with the Parent café program under the Strong Families Work Group. He and his office staff implemented a "Connection Café" with a similar approach. This is an internal casual meeting with the staff to discuss and bring new ideas.

Mr. Santiago Gonzalez with El Paso Human Services commented that the Pride Center is working with foster groups to provide employment and mental health for youth aging out of foster care.

Ms. Tapia ended the meeting by sharing a training on Cultural Competency. The Video is on YouTube. It opens our eyes to what is happening in the country. It's not ok and how we are dealing with it. The training is called "Target Practice" and can be found at the following link: <https://scenester.tv/viral-short-film-target-practice-hits-the-mark-on-the-modern-day-lynching-of-black-men-in-america/>

Ms. Tapia adjourned the meeting at 9:57 am.

STRONG FAMILIES

A COMMUNITY CHANGE INITIATIVE

Prevention and Strengthening Families

January 2021


Prevention of Child Abuse Coalition Strong Families Workgroup

Co-Chair

Stacy Barnett - Amerigroup

Alex Martinez – Amerigroup

Reports to the Family Leadership
Council every other month on
workgroup activities.

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Family Advisory Council Co-Chair

Lourdes Rivera – EPISD Parent Liaison

Shelia Anthony (Ret. Army) – Veterans One
Stop Military Peer Network

Meetings held once a month on the 3rd
Saturday of each month.


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Strong Families Grant Update

October 1, 2020 – September 30, 2021

- Parent Café Workshop –15 Cafés/ 98 participants
- Parent Café Workshops are on Eventbrite
- Military Expansion - building relationships to provide Parent Cafés
- Parent/Community Opportunity – Parent Café Host Training January 26th, 27th, and 28th. Please contact us if you would like any of your staff trained. Free training

Five Protective Factors for Strengthening Families

- Parental Resilience
 - Social Connections
 - Concrete Support in Times of Need
 - Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development
 - Social and Emotional Competence of Children
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What we know: Families gain what they need to be successful when key protective factors are robust in their lives and communities.

Strengthening Families

PARENTAL RESILIENCE

The ability to manage your reactions to stress and to function well when faced with challenges, adversity, and trauma.

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Living the Protective Factors- Individual

Parental Resilience – What that looks like:

- Hope, optimism, self confidence
- Problem solving
- Self care and willingness to ask for help
- Ability to manage negative emotions
- Not allowing stress to interfere with nurturing family.

Living the Protective Factors – Organization

Parental Resilience- What that looks like:

- Demonstrate that parents are valued
 - Honor each family's race, language, culture, history and approach to parenting
 - Encourage parents to manage stress effectively
 - Support parents as decision-makers and help build decision-making and leadership skills
 - Help parents understand how to buffer their child during stressful times.
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Four ways researchers conceive resilience:

1. Resilience is a process and an outcome; it is not a personality trait
2. Resilience is contextual with respect to setting, point in time, culture, and social factors
3. Resilience reflects a person's pattern of positive adaptive behavior in response to current or past risk factors or adversity
4. Resilience results in personal growth and positive change.

Resilience Is Much More Than “Bouncing Back” from Challenges and Adversity

It is intentional and sometimes intensive interventions are needed to help people learn to demonstrate resilience; that is to:

- A) Successfully adapt despite current or past trauma and
 - B) Achieve personal growth and positive change.
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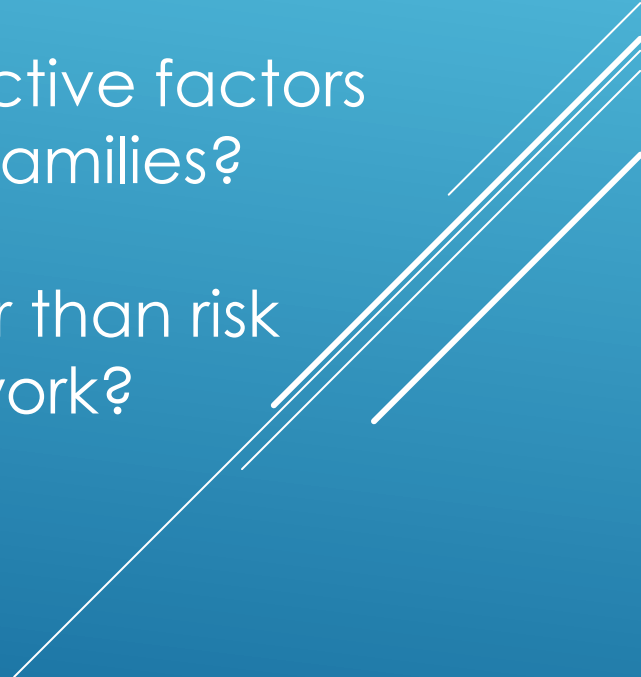
Parental Resilience (Organization Level: Action Sheet)

Center for the Study of Social Policy

Protective and Promotive Factors – Action Sheets (handouts)

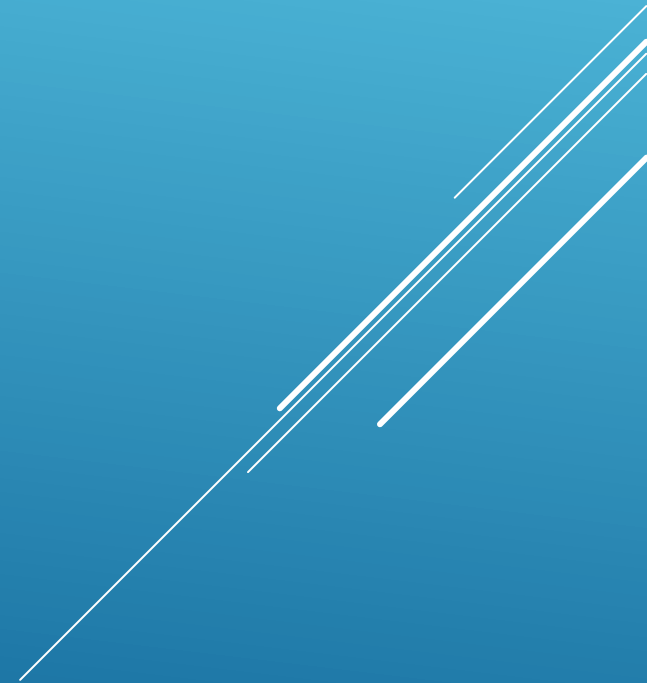
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Reflection

1. In what ways has this training prompted you to think about your work, both what you are already doing and what you might try?
 2. How does the idea of focusing more heavily on protective factors seem relevant to you and “workable” in your work with families?
 3. How has focusing on building protective factors rather than risk factors impacted your own enthusiasm and energy at work?
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Next Steps Taking a Deeper Dive

Strong Families – Community
Change Initiative - Grant
El Paso Center for Children
Kathie Valencia
kvalencia@epccinc.org
915-307-8043




Reminder

Strong Families – Community Change Initiative Evaluation Requirements

- Federal Grant/ Research Project
- Two Yearly Evaluations:
 - Helix Solutions – Local Evaluation Team
 - ABTs – Federal Evaluation Team

THANK YOU

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**Coalition for the Prevention
of Child Abuse/Strong
Families Workgroup
December Overview**

**Family Leadership Council
January 11, 2021**

Strong Families Community Change Initiative

Presented by: Claudia Fuentes

Strong Families Community Outreach Worker

El Paso Center for Children

- Approved: Grant expansion to include individuals affiliated with the military who reside in El Paso County.
- Presentation: Five Protective Factors for Strengthening Families focusing on Parental Resilience
 - What this looks like for the individual
 - What this looks like in action from an organizational perspective
 - Link provided for Action Sheets - What providers can do through daily interactions with parents to help build protective factors
- 5 Protective Factors video – El Paso, Texas
- Parent Café Workshops are on Eventbrite
- Parent/Community Opportunity – Parent Café Host Training January 26th, 27th, and 28th.

Coalition for the Prevention of Child Abuse

Presented by: Sonia Avila

Faith-Based and Community Engagement Specialist, Region 10

Department of Family and Protective Services

- Video: ReMoved #3 – “Love Is Never Wasted”
 - “ReMoved” is a powerful short film series that takes you on the emotional journey of foster children’s lives
 - In ReMoved #3, Little Kevin is torn from the only life he has ever known and struggles to make sense of how he fits between two worlds and two mothers
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fegRjSgRYXk>
- Updates - Keeping our children safe and protected during the COVID-19 Pandemic
- Announcements: Center for Children, CDIC, EHN OSAR, HHSC Child Care Regulations, Casa
- 29 Communalinity Partners in Attendance
- Next meeting scheduled for 1/21/2021 at 1:30 PM
 - Contact Sonia.Avila@dfps.state.tx.us for invite

Coalition for the Prevention of Child Abuse/Strong Families Workgroup Contact Information

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