



### Meeting Notes

July 14, 2020

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

Via ZOOM Virtual Platform

#### Attendees:

Juan Alderete  
Tracy Almanzan  
Angie Bailón  
Diana Barajas  
Sharon Butterworth  
Juanita Galaviz  
Cathy Gaytan  
Diana Hastings  
Cindy Hernandez  
Jeanette James  
Gilda Lopez-Gil  
Dr. Sarah Martin  
Georgina Martinez  
Roger Martinez  
Enrique Mata  
Nicole Morales  
Sonia Morales  
Carmen Olivas-Graham  
Jennifer Phelps  
Kathy Revtyak  
Ashley Sandoval  
Richard Salcido  
Alejandra Valdez  
Kathie Valencia  
Guillermo Valenzuela  
Al Velarde  
Joseph Villescás  
Mike Wendt  
Claudia Woods

#### Representing:

Region 19 ESC  
65th District Court  
Clint ISD  
Home Safe  
Mental Health Advocate  
Paso del Norte Health Foundation  
El Paso Child Guidance Center  
YWCA El Paso  
Emergence Health Network  
Cohen Veterans Network at Endeavors  
Paso del Norte Children's Development Center  
Texas Tech Health Sciences Center of El Paso  
Texas Department of Family & Protective Services  
County of El Paso Juvenile Probation Department  
Paso del Norte Health Foundation  
Strong Families Advisory Council  
El Paso Psychiatric Center  
Socorro ISD/ El Paso Comm. College Board  
El Paso Center for Children  
El Paso Child Guidance Center  
Emergence Health Network  
Family Service of El Paso  
NAMI El Paso  
El Paso Center for Children  
Aliviane  
Paso del Norte Children's Development Center  
NAMI El Paso  
Mental Health Advocate  
Emergence Health Network

## **Welcome, Introductions**

Ms. Cathy Gaytan convened meeting at 8:34 a.m. and called for brief introductions.

## **Conversation on COVID 19 Recovery**

Ms. Gaytan reflected on the stay at home conditions and the challenges faced by families in the greater El Paso community. She called for open discussion about anticipated needs and ways organizations can assist each other in serving children and families.

The following are highlights from the conversation:

- Roger Martinez commented that all who have tested positive in the JPD have recovered. The El Paso Border RAC and the fire department helped test everyone. JPD never shut down, but they are holding only high-risk youth. Everyone coming in is subject to a 2-week assessment and tested. They continue to supervise kids using cell phones and staff are able to telework as needed. There are cases being heard on a daily basis with lots of support from the County Judge, Sheriff and an amazing staff.
- Dr. Sylvia Acosta reported that the YWCA closed for 1 day. Their stressful situations are not just children, but also seniors, rapid rehousing, and so many other programs trying to do as much as possible in terms of helping people while following CDC guidelines, etc. They are working with children at risk sharing protocols with YWCAs throughout the nation, Rio Grande Valley and others. Not having schools open is causing a financial hardship for the organization. Dr. Acosta also reported that she is advocating at the national level for....Cathy Gaytan thanked Dr. Acosta for all her advocacy work and all that the YWCA is doing for the community.
- Guillermo Valenzuela commented that Aliviane from the beginning was taking steps to prevent infections since early in the year. Back then it was thought that in 60 days or so we would see some improvement. What they as an organization are seeing, because the city and the state as a whole are going through some very challenging times, it is becoming very tough to sustain the level of effort and to sustain all services. He commented how much he appreciates the FLC partners stating that when they have been challenged, organizations in the group have really helped out.
- Jeanette James with Cohen Veterans Network at Endeavors commented that they are going into budget season and the team was told they are very blessed throughout the Cohen Veterans clinics. She explained that folks have experienced very sick situations. She also took a moment to recognize everyone's support.
- Juan Alderete commented that a last minute email came to him about a webinar on July 15<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 from Texas State Senator Zaffirini's office. The session will be a question and answer opportunity with the Senator and Nelson Jarrin of Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute. The link to the meeting was disseminated in a separate email.
- Ms. Gaytan commented that the lines are blurring between those who need help and those who provide help. This situation poses great opportunities but also poses great challenges. What does it mean to have kids going back to school and manage work life in a stay at home situation? She added that Child Guidance Center is providing therapy and continuing to take

new clients their opening has been pushed back to sept 12<sup>th</sup>. Transition to virtual presented so many challenges with moving cloud based and focusing on staff and wellness. They are also spending a lot of time advocating. Trying to find out how to apply for and get access to cares act money.

- Ashley Sandoval commented that the majority of the EHN staff are working remotely, but they do also have staffed areas like the 24-hour crisis line and others that are manned as needed. They have a crisis counseling program that was offered to the region for anyone directly or indirectly by Covid 19 free and anonymous.
- Kathie Valencia discussed the Strong Families Advisory Council (FAC) and introduced Lourdes “lulu” Rivera, the Parent Liaison at Henderson Middle School. She explained that the FAC meetings are held once a month. The FAC will be presenting on the 5 protective factors at the next few FLC meeting for 10 minutes at every meeting. These 5 protective factors they are taught at different levels in the communities they are serving.

### **Work Group Reports and other announcements**

- Dr. Sarah Martin provided an update on the Outpatient/CPAN workgroup. The group has not met as a working group but the CPAN project was started on May 18<sup>th</sup> with funding from the Senate bill. The original engagement plan was an in-person approach. They are switching to an online promotion. The hotline for primary care providers is open and people are starting to use it. The TCHAT program has also completely changed but some school districts have signed up. The program was focused on kids that are getting in trouble at school so that will probably be adjusted. There are two research projects getting underway. The community expansion program will add two more sites soon. The fellowship expanded by two slots, now with 6 psychiatry fellows.
- Strong Families Work Group – the group met in May and June virtually focused on sharing of resources and a conversation about nominating someone to be the chair of the work group. June’s meeting was focused on sharing of resources in the community.
- Sharon Butterworth commented that during a meeting with Senator Cornyn there was hope that lasting federal funding would be allocated to support integrated care and telehealth.
- Chief Roger Martinez Recognized the great work done on the recently released vape prevention campaign. He commented that teens that smoke have higher incidences of Covid 19.
- Diana Barajas announced that Home Safe will come to a close. They are in the process of transitioning back to the state. She thanked Dr. Aguirre and Juan Alderete and Richard Salcido for their leadership. FLC partners thanked Ms. Barajas and her staff for all they did to help children and families.

### **Advocacy Letter**

Enrique Mata reported that a draft letter advocating for the extension of term for both video and audio telehealth conference reimbursement was developed. However, before it was vetted and released the extension was approved through July 31<sup>st</sup>. He commented that, if the letter was warranted, for future advocacy he will work on a draft, request the FLC partners’ support in having the Chair or Vice Chair sign and submit the letter to the appropriate group or state or

federal department. The group discussed future letters for a topic like the telehealth advocacy letter. The consensus was that any letter would need to be drafted and sent out to FLC partners with some time for review and comment. The final version would then go to the Chair or Vice Chair for signature and release.

**Update on the system assessment done by MMHPI**

Enrique Mata reported that the Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute is working on interviews and data gathering for the 2020 El Paso County Behavioral Health System Assessment. He explained that a System Assessment Implementation Group (SAIG- pronounced “sage”) was formed to monitor progress on the project. He reinforced how vital cooperation and collaboration from all will be to create an asset for strategic planning over the next few years. For more information contact Enrique Mata at 915-253-0287 or [emata@pdnhf.org](mailto:emata@pdnhf.org)

**Adjourn**

Ms. Gaytan adjourned the meeting at 10:05 a.m.

The next meeting of The Family Leadership Council is scheduled for 8:30 a.m. Tuesday, September 8th via Zoom virtual platform. For more information, contact Enrique Mata at [emata@pdnhf.org](mailto:emata@pdnhf.org) or 915-253-0287.