



Meeting Notes

May 12, 2020

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

Via ZOOM Virtual Platform

Attendees:

Tracy Almanzan
Diana Barajas
Sharon Butterworth
Juanita Galaviz
Cathy Gaytan
Cindy Hernandez
Jeanette James
Gilda Lopez-Gil
Yahara Lisa Gutierrez
Dr. Sarah Martin
Georgina Martinez
Enrique Mata
Jaime Mendoza
Ben Miranda
Sonia Morales
Carmen Olivas-Graham
Jennifer Phelps
Kathy Revtyak
Ashley Sandoval
Ivonne Tapia
Richard Salcido
Alejandra Valdez
Kathie Valencia
Al Velarde
Joseph Villescascas
Mike Wendt
Claudia Woods

Representing:

65th District Court Rep.
Home Safe
Mental Health Advocate
Paso del Norte Health Foundation
El Paso Child Guidance Center
Emergence Health Network
Cohen Veterans Network at Endeavors
Paso del Norte Children's Development Center
Judge 65th District Court
Texas Tech Health Sciences Center of El Paso
Texas Department of Family & Protective Services
Paso del Norte Health Foundation

Endeavors El Paso
El Paso Psychiatric Center
Socorro ISD/ El Paso Comm. College Board
El Paso Center for Children
El Paso Child Guidance Center
Emergence Health Network
Aliviane
Family Service of El Paso
NAMI El Paso
El Paso Center for Children
Paso del Norte Children's Development Center
NAMI El Paso
Mental Health Advocate
Emergence Health Network

Welcome, Introductions

Ms. Ivonne Tapia convened meeting at 8:34 a.m. and called for brief introductions.

Update on the system assessment done by MMHPI

Enrique Mata announced that as of May 1st Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute began work on the 2020 El Paso County Behavioral Health System Assessment. He provided an overview of the timeline and data gathering next steps reinforcing how vital cooperation and collaboration from all will be to create an asset for strategic planning over the next few years.

Conversation on COVID 19 Recovery

Ivonne Tapia and Cathy Gaytan reflected on the stay at home conditions and the challenges faced by families in the greater El Paso community. They call for open discussion about anticipated needs and ways organizations can assist each other in serving children and families. The following are community need highlights including:

- Advocacy to maintain the current Medicaid telehealth waivers in place, to include audio telehealth services.
- Advocacy to restrict Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) and/or insurances from dictating the type of telehealth platform that must be used by providers/patients. Standard telehealth requirements should exist, allowing provider/patient to use any option available to them that meet those requirements.
- Seeking out options for serving uninsured children/adolescents in need of inpatient psychiatric services until the Psychiatric Center is able to serve these patients again.
- Child abuse and domestic violence are on the rise and under reported while sheltering in place. How can the FLC help develop/implement innovative strategies to educate our community, detect and report child abuse?
- There is a need for innovative options for childcare in the current environment and as schools and businesses reopen.
- There is a need for an updated resource list of mental health counseling, support groups and prevention services offered to clients, their family members, for EPCC students and employees, and others. Especially who is still open to serve patients in both telehealth and face to face formats.

Related comments:

- Al Velarde commented that the expanded telehealth reimbursement is scheduled to expire May 31st. He is sending a letter to the delegation to advocate for an extension to the deadline.
- Ashley Sandoval commented that the TMHP deadlines are a problem. The videoconferencing and audio conferences are both important. There are clients in need of audio health conferences due to the clients not having capabilities to operate technology. EHN is advocating through the Texas council.
- Some insurance companies like Tricare limit the type of software that can be used.

To Do:

Enrique Mata will work on a draft advocacy letter from the FLC based on letters submitted by Paso del Norte Children's Development, Emergence Health Network, and others.

Other Business and Updates

- Ben Miranda reported that the El Paso Veterans Mental Health Summit will be held via virtual platform on May 20th through the 22nd for more information contact Ben at: bmiranda@endeavors.org. He commented that Endeavors is providing telehealth services. They have seen an increase of 750% for our community that speaks volumes. The Veterans Survey had 1,400 responses. He Recapped the needs identified including; claims assistance, employment assistance, mental health service assistance, and others.
- Kathy Revtyak commented that the Community Collaborations Work Group met virtually and the TIROLG group is also meeting successfully in a virtual environment. Child Guidance is also virtual and the educational and training services are virtual. We need to maintain a robust service array including the telehealth. This situation has forced us to innovate to meet the needs of the community. Kathy states she sees everyone pivoting and that is good. Special events and education going virtual. How do we leverage the technology? The group discussed a gap or need is to address employee stress.
- Sonia Morales-Velasquez reported that the EP psych center is now on the upswing after the outbreak. They are planning to open again They will not have child and adolescent services. That unit will be converted to a testing and isolation area for COVID 19. The group discussed the need for other plans for children in need of inpatient care and do not have insurance. They need to explore.
- Dr. Sarah Martin reported that CPAN and TCHATT going forward on schedule. TCHATT is moving forward ahead of schedule in SISD and Canutillo is looking at signing up. They also signed up a district in the Lower Rio Grande Valley. CPAN launch date is May 18th.
- Guillermo Valenzuela commented that overall, what they have seen at Aliviane is that by the efforts of their staff and God's grace people have responded extremely well. They like telemedicine, they comply with the requirements of social distancing. Thanks to everyone on the meeting, they have had service providers drop off masks and PPE to donate to the staff.
- Gina Martinez commented that DFPS still continues to see kids. There is a significant decline in intakes. That is worrisome because they have seen a slight uptick in cases coming in at a severe level. Pride training waiver they can start training smaller groups virtually now. Spikes in physical abuse and domestic violence.
- Dr. Graham commented that the community is not prepared for the childcare situations that are coming. She is interested in providing options for mental health services for the EP Community College. Friday is a family day. We need to keep the kiddos on the radar once school ends there will be no more support and kids will be disconnected.
- Beth Senger reported Center for Children updates including; getting training from all their evidence-based parent and youth education models and bringing them to virtual platforms, launching a prevention campaign through the Strong Families initiative with several FLC partners. The prevention campaign is the culmination of months of planning and about \$80,000 investment -- it will be direct mailouts in vulnerable zip codes and billboards, they

have plenty of capacity for virtual and limited in-person counseling services, they are continuing all their services for homeless youth.

Adjourn

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

The next meeting of The Family Leadership Council is scheduled for 8:30 a.m. Tuesday, July 14th via Zoom virtual platform. For more information, contact Enrique Mata at emata@pdnhf.org or 915-253-0287.