



**Meeting Notes**

November 10, 2020

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

Via ZOOM Virtual Platform

**Attendees:**

Dr. Sylvia Acosta  
Tracy Almanzan  
Sheila Anthony  
Sonia Avila  
Sharon Butterworth  
Juanita Galaviz  
Cathy Gaytan  
Yahara Lisa Gutierrez  
Jeanette James  
Gilda Lopez-Gil  
Dr. Sarah Martin  
Georgina Martinez  
Roger Martinez  
Enrique Mata  
Dr. Carmen Olivas-Graham  
Jennifer Phelps  
Kathy Revtyak  
Lourdes Rivera  
Ashley Sandoval  
Alex >>  
Ivonne Tapia  
Isidro Torres  
Richard Salcido  
Alejandra Valdez  
Kathie Valencia  
Al Velarde  
Sonia Velasquez  
Christopher Villa  
Claudia Woods

**Representing:**

YWCA El Paso Del Norte Region  
65th District Court  
Strong Families Advisory Council  
Texas Department of Family & Protective Services  
Mental Health Advocate  
Paso del Norte Health Foundation  
El Paso Child Guidance Center  
Judge 65<sup>th</sup> District Court  
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  
Socorro ISD/ El Paso Comm. College Board  
El Paso Center for Children  
El Paso Child Guidance Center  
Strong Families Advisory Council  
Emergence Health Network  
Amerigroup  
Aliviane  
NAMI El Paso  
Family Service of El Paso  
NAMI El Paso  
El Paso Center for Children  
Paso del Norte Children's Development Center  
El Paso Psychiatric Center  
Helix Solutions  
Emergence Health Network

## **Welcome and Introductions**

Ivonne Tapia convened meeting at 8:34 a.m. and called for introductions of all online participants.

## **FLC Advocacy Letter to the Governor**

Cathy Gaytan reviewed the advocacy letter and called for any concerns with the Chair and Vice Chair signing the letter on behalf of the FLC. Gilda Gil voiced support of the letter commenting that challenges with reimbursement still exist. She gave a brief example. Al Velarde commented that he could mention the letter at a meeting of the healthcare council he is sitting on. The group discussed including names of members and organizations within the letter or on a separate sheet. Mr. Mata will develop some options and provide them to the Chair and Vice Chair for review and to submit a final version of the letter to the Governor's office.

**Healthy Paso del Norte Website:** [www.healthypasodelnorte.org/epbhconsortium](http://www.healthypasodelnorte.org/epbhconsortium)

Mr. Mata shared the updated web pages developed for the Consortium. He explained that this is a central location for service providers to access the most up to date community resource lists. He added that meeting notes from the leadership councils will also be posted from the 2019, 2020, and future meetings. Presentation materials from the Progress Summit, the full Summit video, and a section documenting Consortium accomplishments since 2014 are also available. He asked that the consortium members review and provide feedback on what is missing, or any modifications needed.

## **Roundtable/Work Group Discussions**

**CPAN/TCHAT:** Dr. Sarah Martin provided an update on progress implementing both the Child Psychiatry Access Network (CPAN) and the Texas Child Health Access Through Telehealth (TCHAT) programs. She explained the 16-county service area including the ability to serve children from the areas of Anthony, Eagle Pass, Odessa and Midland. She requested assistance from the FLC to improve referrals from the school districts. MOUs were signed but no services to families have been provided. The program serves children ages 4 and up and the service is more of an evaluation, no medication is provided. Kathy Revtyak recommended the CPAN/TCHAT explore connections with Region 19. Mr. Al Velarde commented that he can share information with the EPISD Board and with district officials that he meets with. Dr. Martin also commented that more primary care providers are needed. A presentation to the El Paso Pediatric Society is planned. Dr. Graham commented that the schools are providing information. Perhaps exploring other ways to get information out through the nurses and counselors. Information could also be shared with EPADOG. Dr. Martin added that the community alliance has been very helpful and gave examples of work underway with Aliviane, Diversion programs with JPD and Chief Martinez, and the Ysleta clinic. Dr. Graham commented that SISD also has a clinic and will connect Dr. Martin's team. Mr. Mata will share information with all Consortium members. Ms. Kathie Valencia commented that the information could be shared with the Strong Families constituents.

Dr. Martin also mentioned that the Empower Change Directory is under the CPAN/TCHAT program now and needs to be updated. The link will be shared so that provider information can be updated as needed.

**Community Collaborations:** Ms. Kathy Revtyak reported that the work group meets on the second Thursday morning of every other month. They have great attendance and presentations. Some objectives have been put on hold due to COVID 19, but the presentations provide education on available community programs and services. For example, Dr. Martin presented at the last meeting. They also are providing connections to share how organizations are adapting and problem solving to maintain services. They are investigating events in the community to connect with. For example, the recent region 19 mental health event. There is one more meeting this year on Thursday December 10<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 – 10 am. The group will continue to support connections on multiple levels.

**Help Me Grow:** Ms. Gilda Gil reported that the work group compiled a list of early childhood stakeholders, presented them with the Help Me Grow (HMG) core components and sent out an interest form to see what core component of the framework each group is interested in working on. They have been having one on one meetings with groups to get a feel for who is serving 0-8 years of age population. A meeting is scheduled for December the 9<sup>th</sup> to discuss next steps. She added that HMG is also going to be trying to get out the information about child development milestones. They are exploring and identifying groups like an Early Matters group that is already meeting. They are going to try and connect with these existing work groups. Ms. Gaytan applauded the efforts to build cross collaboration among all the partner groups. The FLC should explore creating a graphic to illustrate movement toward the goal of increased collaborations.

**Foster Care:** Georgina Martinez reported that numbers of foster parents are dropping and as far as capacity across the state there has been an extreme strain. She is proud to say that her team is still maintaining above 75% of the children remaining in our community. She explained that lots of transition to virtual connections was required and they are still building capacity. There is some stability thanks to the existing foster parents who are stepping up to help allow kids to stay in our community.

Ms. Tapia asked about changes in child abuse reports. Ms. Martinez commented that there is a recent increase in cases coming into conservatorship. Cases are also more serious at the time they are identified, and many require immediate intervention. The group discussed the challenges with timely reports being lower in abused children due to school being virtual instead of face to face. There are significant increases in financial needs - Families are behind in paying bills and rent likely leading to increases in domestic violence and child abuse. Ms. Martinez reinforced the importance of sharing resources that may be available where families can access support. Dr. Acosta, CEO, shared that the YWCA is offering free childcare and transportation. Ms. Avila indicated that rental support is also available with Project Bravo and AMISTAD. Ms. Tapia recommended that a list of COVID related support for families in need be added to the PdN Website. Mr. Mata will investigate ways to add these items to the page.

### **2021 Meeting Dates**

Ms. Tapia referenced the calendar of scheduled meetings provided by Mr. Mata. She called for any changes to the FLC General Meeting dates and times. Once confirmed, Outlook Meeting Notices will be sent to save the dates.

### **Other Business**

- Dr. Acosta indicated that the YWCA has jobs available for child care. These jobs are in many ways a safer environment than grocery store or restaurant work because of the preventive precautions that the YWCA is taking for the children.
- Mr. Velarde stated that PDN CDC is also hiring for child care of children with special needs.

### **Adjourn**

Ms. Tapia adjourned the meeting at 10:10 a.m. commenting that since there was important discussion under each work group progress report, and all work groups did not get to present, a special meeting will be called on December 8<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 am – 10:00 am. An agenda and Zoom meeting link will be sent out before the meeting date.

For more information on the next virtual meeting contact Juanita Galaviz at [jgalaviz@pdnhf.org](mailto:jgalaviz@pdnhf.org) or (915)218-2618.