

The BRAIN TRUST

Meeting Notes

April 9, 2019

4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

UTEP Health Sciences Center and School of Nursing Building

(Across from the UTEP Library)

1851 Wiggins Rd.

El Paso, TX 79968

3rd Floor, Room 384

Attendees:

Beth Abbott
Ana Arias
Angela Barraza
Sharon Butterworth
Maria Carrillo
Manuel Castruita
Adan Dominguez
Dr. Hyejin Jung
Brandi Lawler
Carolina Martinez
Enrique Mata
Holly Mata
Olivia Narvaez
Amethyst Tyler
Lupe Quezada

Representing:

Menatal Health Advocate
La Familia Del Paso
EPCGC
Menatal Health Advocate
Centro de Salud Familiar-La Fe
EPISD
Recovery Alliance
UTEP/Empower Change
NAMI
Empower Change
Paso del Norte Health Foundation
Brain Trust/Empower Change
EPISD
UTEP
EPCGC

I. Welcome, Introductions

- Holly Mata convened meeting at 4:34 p.m.

II. Special Speaker & Presentation

- Maria C. Alfaro from the La Familia del Paso Services presented on her organization. In her presentation she discussed the following items:
 - Provide behavior /developmental health services for ages 5 and up
 - Specialize in treatment for:
 - Depression
 - Anxiety
 - Bi-polar Disorder
 - Schizophrenia
 - Down Syndrome
 - Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder
 - Substance Use Disorder
 - Psycho-social services for children
 - Self-help/support program open to the public operated by men/women in recovery
 - La Familia del Paso Services Timeline:
 - 1988 Clubhouse-A self-help program established by individuals in recovery from mental illness
 - 2000 Las Puertas-18 housing units based on income
 - 2005 Started providing rehab service the Clubhouse
 - 2008 Thrift store was established
 - 2014 La Familia del Paso Services branched out from Emergence Health Network
 - 2016 Adult Cliff Clinic was established
 - 2018 El Paso Noble Horizon Clinic, El Hilo-work program, which makes and sells blankets was created, Children’s Clinic Counseling was opened
 - 2019 Carolina IDD and Down Syndrome Programs were established
 - Clinical services
 - Intake
 - 2 locations
 - Rehabilitation services
 - 25 qualified mental health professionals
 - Services in home setting
 - Different levels of Care:
 - Services
 - Transportation- 5 vans with allocated routes throughout El Paso
 - Adult Day Care Program:
 - El Paso Noble located at 500 Alameda
 - Carolina Center located at 1001N. Carolina Suite B and D
 - Provides a CIDD Program
 - Transitional Center from high school to adulthood
 - Insurance accepted
 - Amerigroup

- Molina
- Superior
- El Paso 1st
- El Paso Health
- Medicaid
- Medicare MMP
- Accepts general revenue- through Emergence Health Network referral
- For uninsured:
 - Self-pay
 - Counseling services for \$50 a session
 - \$150 psychological evaluation + medication
 - \$70 for follow up
- Referral process:
 - Information required:
 - Name
 - Date of Birth
 - Phone number
 - Insurance information

II. For more information contact (915) 239-2955. For referrals email: referrals@lafamiliadelpaso.com.

Community Progress:

Maria Carrillo of *Centro de Salud La Fe* discussed the importance of networking and collaborating within the Brain Trust. She shared a story about a recent time she needed help with mental health counseling for staff and students after a death in her organization. Thanks to the Brain Trust network she was able to reach out to Manny Castruita’s for help. He and his team helped provide mental health counseling. As a result of Mr. Castruita’s hard work and collaborative spirit he was awarded an award.

Ana Arias of *La Familia del Paso* expressed her appreciation for the different community providers and looks forward to collaborating with Brain Trust partners for the good of the El Paso community. She also mentioned that her organization will be hosting a Grand opening on May 17th 11 am-3 pm and has registration forms for event.

Brandi Lawler of *UTEF* attended her first Brain Trust meeting and expressed interested in the Brain Trust. She also expressed interest in Empower Change’s mental health resource directory at Empowerchange.info after reviewing resource information on website.

Lupe Quesada of the *El Paso Child Guidance Center* informed members that EPCGC was awarded a renovation grant.

Olivia Narvaez of the *El Paso Independent School District* informed Brain Trust members that it is grant season and EPISD is applying for a human trafficking grant. She also stated that EPISD is continuing its grant application for homeless children and youth. She also gave members some information on the current homelessness grant consisting of:

- Award amount per student has increased which means expanded services
- EPISD served over 400 students this year and projects to serve 200 more students
- 1200 homeless students in El Paso Independent School District

Manny Castrates of the *El Paso Independent School District* informed members that the Texas governor released some funds for prevention and therapy-summer grants are based on referrals. Through community collaboration 18 social worker positions have been created since October 2018. All the positions are secured until 2020. Project Vida and Emergence Health Network are working to create school based mental health programs. He also spoke about the senate approval of Senate Bill 17, which will allow the denial of services by licensed professionals in TX. There is no counter measure in Texas. This bill could change the nature of the work that providers do in the sense that it could in ways be a license for discrimination/exclusion of services.

Enrique Mata of the *Paso del Health Foundation* mentioned that the goal of the group is to eliminate negative bias to help community vet out. He also mentioned that there are Legislative bills in Behavioral Health in the House or Senate and the Brain Trust needs to be alert and proactive to help push legislation along. Mr. Mata also stated that the *Paso del Health Foundation* is looking for letters of intent from agencies looking for health initiative funding. If anyone is interested in applying contact Mr. Mata at 915-218-2617.

Sharon Butterworth, *Mental Health Advocate* informed Brain Trust members that there are more efforts toward integration in mental health care and has hopes that region will get rid of mental.

Holly Mata of *Empower Change* informed members that the NAMI WALK is scheduled for September 21st at Ascarate Park.

VI. Meeting adjourned at 5:31 pm

Mission:

The Brain Trust is a collaborative network of community stakeholders committed to changing minds and attitudes about mental illness in El Paso County to improve mental and emotional well-being for the health of children, youth and adults.

Vision:

The Brain Trust Network envisions a community where mental and emotional well-being are fundamental to the quality and productivity of individuals, families, communities and nations, enabling people to experience life as meaningful and to be creative and active citizens (adapted from the World Health Organization’s definition of mental health and mental well-being).

Next Meeting:

The Brain Trust now has a standing meeting time of 4:30 pm every 2nd Tuesday of the month.

The next Brain Trust Network meeting is scheduled for 4:30 pm, Tuesday, May 14, 2019 in room 384 at the UTEP Health Sciences Center and School of Nursing Building.

Next Presenters:

Angie Lozano ReadyOne Industries May 14th

Adan Dominguez Recovery Alliance June 11th

Elizabeth Gonzalez Border Collaborative July 8th