



**May 15, 2019**  
**9:30 am – 10:30 am**

Paso del Norte Health Foundation  
Meeting Room C & D  
Wells Fargo Building  
221 N. Kansas, 19th Floor

**Attendees:**

Joshua Acevedo  
Alexsandra Anello  
Anna Basler-White  
Joel Bishop  
Sharon Butterworth  
Rosa P. Duran  
Christina Ford  
Jaime Gandara  
Cindy Hernandez  
Patsy Lopez  
Carolina Martinez  
Maggie Morales-Aina  
Robert Pisarcik  
Eddy Payan  
Henry Rivera  
Victor Talavera  
Sonia Velazquez  
Richard Wiles  
Tracy Yellen

**Representing:**

Empower Change  
City of El Paso  
Emergence Health Network  
El Paso County  
Paso Del Norte Heath Foundation Board  
Emergence Health Network  
El Paso County Attorney  
Public Defenders  
Emergence Health Network  
EP County Attorney's Office  
Empower Change  
El Paso County CSCD  
EPPD CIT  
Public Defenders  
City Representative District 7  
Emergence Health Network  
HHSC/DSHS EPC  
EP County Sheriff and JLC Chair  
Paso Del Norte Heath Foundation

**I. Welcome, Introductions**

- The meeting of the Justice Leadership Council (JLC) was convened at 9:37 am.

**II. Mental Health Professionals in 911 Centers**

- JLC members discussed the initiative to embed mental health professionals in 911 centers
  - Representative Alexandra Anello spoke about her goals in mental health in El Paso
  - She started by discussing the Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) Programming in El Paso
    - Ms. Anello's office ensured that CIT programming was in the budget and negotiate budget details
    - She gave a brief budget process breakdown
    - She hopes to review the CIT program needs with JLC
    - The next step according to Representative Anello is to be fully equip El Paso to meet community needs
  - Mr. Enrique Mata of the Paso del Norte Health Foundation asked how CIT would work in 911 centers? Ms. Cindy Hernandez of Emergence Health Network (EHN) explained that EHN plans to use the Houston model
    - Houston took two years to get program started due to a lack of stakeholder buy-in
    - Once pilot program was implemented more stakeholders bought into the program
    - Mental health practitioners were stationed at 911 centers in Houston and will also be stationed in El Paso 911 center to help direct caller to services making calls more time saving and concise
  - Police Officer Robert Pisarcik mentioned that El Paso police are limited to El Paso's 911 Center
    - Mental health providers in 911 centers would make the assessment process more prompt with specific mental health questions
  - JLC members asked if the 911 mental health interface would replace EHN's Crisis Line? Mr. Victor Talavera mentioned that the EHN crisis line and mental health professionals embedded in the 911 centers are different types of services
  - JLC discussed the need for data collection from Houston to be revisited by JLC members or members on the ground
  - Mr. Mata spoke about the action plan and the JLC's expectations within this group to identify certain trends that were not anticipated
    - 911 centers are the natural next step
    - He also asked JLC to take necessary steps to prevent unrealistic expectations
  - Sheriff Wiles spoke about 911 operator training and the importance of starting the process, which will take some time

**III. 911 Call Take Initiative**

- Mr. Mata spoke about current CIT police teams and their responsibilities
  - Officer Pisarcik mentioned that the focus of CIT are crisis cases and the current CIT team is working on guideline for other officers
  - Ms. Maggie Morales-Aina mentioned the need for a check-list of community individuals to identify what cases qualify for CIT attention
    - Mr. Victor Talavera's team will connect with Ms. Morales-Aina in regards to this matter
    - Mr. Talavera mentioned the need to educate and train police in a joint presentation on the appropriateness of CIT calls to ensure the right calls are going to CIT

- By the next JLC meeting a plan will be in place
- Officer Pisarcik also mentioned CIT conference found out website from Houston- creating business cards with website, website with all information and brochures
- Ms. Sharon Butterworth asked several questions:
  - Are there clinicians with the SWOT team?
  - What is the difference between CIT and SWOT
    - The mission makes the difference, usually SWOT is used to address criminal activity
    - A SWOT call can consist of a clinician because the individual is going through crisis
    - SWOT also gets called out for suicide cases
    - Sheriff Wiles emphasized that if SWOT gets called they will take their time, it is not a quick resolution

#### **IV. SAMHSA Gains Center Learning Collaborative**

- Ms. Cindy Hernandez discussed the SAMHSA's Eight Guiding Principles for Behavioral Health and Criminal Justice training, which focused on tools to assist community-based behavioral health providers that work in the adult criminal justice system. EHN was the lead in El Paso for this training.
  - During the Collaborative training mental health court and trauma informed care therapy were planned
  - Partners also discussed Sequential map model, which would diverted individuals from re-entry
  - Ms. Morales-Aina pointed out that sequential mapping had a history in El Paso consisting of the following:
    - In 2013 El Paso had its first sequential map model created
    - In 2017 a second sequential map model was created
    - In 2019 third sequential map model is in progress
    - Mr. Mata would like Empower Change to update map
  - JLC discussed the need for a candid conversation about the gaps and owning short falls
- Ms. Morales-Aina mentioned that during the training an action plan was created emphasizing department head participation in planning process
  - Dr. Eno Loudon of UTEP will track progress on priority principles and objectives
  - JLC agreed that technical assistance should come from EHN in providing services for district attorneys and judges
  - Ms. Morale-Aina would like to reach out to department heads to see if they can participate in action plan items
  - Mr. Mata emphasized the importance of stakeholder buy-in and participation

#### **V. Other Business**

- Ms. Morale-Aina mentioned Mental Health Court application was submitted to the Governor's office
  - The next steps are:
    - To approach the Commissioner's Court for funding approval but will wait till she has a pilot to reference
    - Reach out to departments to have departments be part of plan not just a specific contact person to ensure a seamless process
- Mr. Joel Bishop of the CJC re-entry mentioned that the El Paso Sheriff's department has been wonderful to work with

- CJC re-entry has been working with homeless population by providing services and preventing the Opportunity Center from being over utilized
- Risk assessment
- Homelessness assessment
- Re-entry mapping of resources
- More than half the individuals in Re-entry have been volunteering to enroll in the program and to received services prior to being released
- Through preliminary research Opportunity Center is the most used program
- Mr. Bishop mentioned that his team is looking to solidify solutions to recommend to the city and county
  - He mentioned that emergency shelters keep doors need to be open longer
- Ms. Edy Payan shared progress
  - The chief social worker and the Sheriff's Office are working together in sharing documentation
- Ms. Ana Basler-White shared a few items:
  - She wanted JLC to know that she appreciates the Re-entry program staff's passion for the re-entry populations
  - EHN received notification that the jail magistrate require physical presence of a physician' when documentation about medication is presented in the jail
    - JLC members seemed surprised about this news
  - Ms. Morale-Aina mentioned that she was able to bypass the physical presence of a physican requirement because of the extensive training her team has
- Ms. Morale-Aina and Ms. Basler-White stated that EHN and probation office are in collaboration to form a Mobile Crisis Unit near the office and two telemedicine sites
  - One will be at the Probation/ Parole Residential Office
  - The second will be at the main Probation Office
  - El Paso County Community Supervision and Corrections Department is collaborating with EHN to fill gaps and provide further geographic accessibility
- Ms. Morale-Aina also mentioned that the following items:
  - Personal Recognizance bond orientation will be on Delta Drive
  - Ysleta is getting ready to open their own Personal Recognizance bond orientation

**VI. Adjourn**

- Sheriff Wiles adjourned the meeting of the Justice Leadership Council at 10:31 am.