



## **Crisis Care Work Group**

**August 8, 2023  
9:00 am - 10:00 am**

**Paso del Norte Health Foundation  
Meeting Room C  
221 N. Kansas, 19th Floor**

### **Attendees:**

Sharon Butterworth  
Sandra Day  
Cathy Gaytan  
Josue Lachica  
Violeta Lopez-Unzueta  
Enrique Mata  
Celeste Nevarez  
Jesus Ramirez  
Isidro Torres

### **Representing:**

Paso del Norte Center at Meadows Institute  
Paso del Norte Health Foundation  
El Paso Child Guidance Center  
Paso del Norte Center at Meadows Institute  
United Way of El Paso  
Paso del Norte Center at Meadows Institute  
Emergence Health Network  
Big Brothers Big Sisters of El Paso  
NAMI El Paso

### **Welcome and Introductions**

Enrique Mata and Josue Lachica convened the work group meeting at 9:05 a.m. and called for introductions.

### **Review Work Group Opportunities & Strategies**

Enrique Mata and Josue Lachica provided an overview of the process leading to the work group's development and the related Opportunity for Change and strategies that the group will be addressing. They reinforced that the name of the Work Group, and the related strategies are all works in progress and can be amended with the approval of the work group and the FLC partners.

### **Open Discussion**

The work group continued the meeting with an open discussion. Highlights from the conversation are as follows:

**Opportunity For Change:** Expand and Enhance Existing or Develop a non-forensic cross agency mobile crisis team model to respond to a range of urgent needs outside the normal delivery of care.

**Strategy I:** Analyze what types of needs are unique to children, youth, and families and how response to those needs must be designed. A definition for the phrase "range of urgent needs outside the normal delivery of care" will be necessary with focus both on what the particular needs are and then why they lie outside the "normal delivery of care".

- This group needs a representative from Emergence Health Network's mobile crisis outreach team (MCOT) to help inform on capacity and differences between MCOT and CIT including school CIT.
- Isidro Torres commented that there is a need to identify community assets to assist with substance use crisis in youth and how those crises are addressed.
- The County attorney's office and Mr. Torres identify that weapons (e.g., guns and mental health) risks and policies and practices related to the.
  - Mr. Lachica commented that there is now a youth anti violence task force within the West Texas Anti-Gang Center. This Task Force includes law enforcement partners in the area, state, county, city.
  - Gang involvement may be increasing as well. The group discussed how gang involvement, and access to weapons connect/disconnect with mental health?
  - The group speculated that the reason for the increase in violence is that kids are more depressed. This is not confirmed with data.
- A representative from each psychiatric hospital should be on this work group.
- As a community we are striving toward a trauma informed crisis response.

**Strategy II:** Explore community capacity to serve those experiencing First Episode Psychosis (FEP) as part of the child, youth, and family service array.

- Celeste Nevarez updated the group on Emergence Health Network's efforts to develop an FEP. There are currently 2 CSC teams:
  - They are the top in the state. As a result, they are allowed to drop in age to serve youth below 13 years of age which is a win and allows the community greater capacity to serve individuals in need at the earliest possible sign of symptoms.
  - An event is coming up on August 25<sup>th</sup> demystifying psychosis at the Starlight Center – The event will focus on what providers need to know about psychosis.
  - EHN now has the capacity to respond to area needs. They have not hit capacity for this program. Ms. Nevarez added that EHN just got approval for funding for ages 13 to 30. She commented that if you can intervene at 13 you can significantly reduce risks for crisis in future years.
- There is now a physician partnership with Texas Tech, and the FEP is expanding its coordination with hospital systems and discharge planning.
- Active-duty military providers are open for collaboration.
- This work group needs presence from the psychiatric hospitals.
- FRC – NAMI training is beneficial in reducing crisis risks.

**Value proposition** - Data within the 2021 El Paso System Assessment seeks adult, and children's crisis care common approaches where appropriate. For example, 911 and 988, calls involving families and children end up going to the same call centers as calls involving adults. A seamless dispatch system for crisis care increases likelihood for access to appropriate care and improves opportunity for successful recovery.

### **Work Group Leads**

The group agreed that it was premature to identify a lead at this meeting. This will be an agenda item for the next meeting targeted for the second Tuesday in October.

**Adjourn:** The meeting adjourned at 10:10 am.