



### First Connection Work Group Meeting Notes

October 28, 2024

9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Paso del Norte Health Foundation

221 N. Kansas, 19<sup>th</sup> Floor

El Paso, Texas 79901

Meeting Room C

#### Attendees:

Sharon Butterworth  
Daniely Gutierrez  
Rebeka Isaac  
Josue Lachica  
Vanessa Leon  
Dr. Sarah Martin  
Enrique Mata  
Kathie Valencia  
Wes Temple  
Dr. Maria Torres

#### Representing:

Paso del Norte Center at Meadows Institute  
Region 19 Education Services Center  
Emergence Health Network  
Paso del Norte Center at Meadows Institute  
Heart Gallery of El Paso  
TTUHSC El Paso CPAN/TCHATT – FC Chair  
Paso del Norte Center at Meadows Institute  
El Paso Center for Children  
Region 19 Education Services Center  
Jesuit Refugee Service

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#### Welcome and Introductions

Dr Sarah Martin welcomed the group and called for introductions.

#### Chair and Vice Chair announcement

It was recognized that Dr. Sarah Martin will act in the role of Chair of the FLC First Connection Work Group and Ms. Laura Marquez will act in the role of Vice Chair with Ms. Gilda Gil presiding when either the Chair or Vice Chair are unable to convene the meetings.

#### First Connection Overview from previous meetings

Enrique Mata provided an overview of the connections among the El Paso Behavioral Health Consortium, its Leadership Councils, task forces and work groups. He recognized that the work group is named First Connection because its overarching goal is **“to make the first connection with mental health support a positive one.”** He explained that meeting notes for all the Leadership Councils can be found at:

<https://healthypasodelnorte.org/>.

#### Open discussion

- **First Connection through specialty service (e.g. pediatric, primary care and school settings)**

Dr Martin provided an update on pilot Collaborative Care practices advising that she has identified three pediatric groups to implement model approaches to coordinate mental health and physical health plans of

care for children and families. She also provided some highlights on the successes with the Child Psychiatry Access Network (CPAN) and the Texas Child Health Access to Telehealth (TCHAT) programs.

Dr Martin recommends inviting representation from each of the pediatric practices and exploring representation from the school counsellors or administrators for this work group. Dr Martin responded to questions from the group.

- **First Connection through specialty service access (e.g., crisis care or emergency care)** Ms. Laura Marquez shared progress on the Help Me Grow project. She summarized several creative approaches to engage and make parents aware of important early childhood intervention services. She added that they too have some pediatric practices who are championing the effort to be well trained and provide timely access to accurate diagnostic testing and optimal, proactive plans of care.

**To Dos:**

For the next meeting, the PdN Center will engage with:

- PHIX on their work and how it relates to the goals of this work group
- the El Paso Medical Society
- medical office manager association
- medical coder association
- APRN association
- Explore design of an annual community provider educational event

**Other Business:**

The PdN Center and the Health Foundation Program Team are planning for the next Consortium General Meeting targeted for December 6, 2024. The theme for the meeting will be surrounding mental health policy priorities for the 89th Legislative Session. More information will follow as the dates and venue are confirmed.

**Next Meeting:**

**The group will be targeted to meet on Monday, December 9<sup>th</sup> at Paso del Norte Health Foundation, Meeting Room C from 9:00 – 10:30 am.** Room availability will need to be confirmed. A meeting notice will be sent to the FLC members.

## Work Group Participant Contact List:

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**First Connection Work Group**  
**October 28<sup>th</sup> Meeting**

# First Connection October 28th Agenda:

-  **Welcome and Introductions**
-  **First Connection Overview from previous meetings**
-  **Open discussion on**
  -  • **First Connection through specialty service (e.g. pediatric, primary care and school settings)**
-  **And**
  -  • **First Connection through specialty service access (e.g., crisis care or emergency care)**
-  **Other Business**
-  **Next Meeting**
-  **Adjourn**

# **First Connection Work Group: Chair Dr. Sarah Martin**

## **Vice Chair: Laura Marquez and Gilda Gil**

### **Exists to:**

Make the First Connection with mental health service a positive and nurturing experience.

### **Next Meeting:**

October 28, 2024

### **What will it do:**

Increase access to preventive, proactive family support, and timely access to early identification, accurate diagnosis, and appropriate care.



# Overview of Previous Meetings



# Opportunity For Change: Primary Care

Expand and Enhance Integrated and Collaborative Care models for mental healthcare and related support access in the pediatric and primary care settings.

**Strategy I** -Clearly identify mental health and substance use care and support that can efficiently and effectively be coordinated or directly provided within the primary care setting. For example, pediatrician's and staff trained for assessment and care planning to address early child anxiety symptoms providing care and support or coordinating with counseling and specialty care as needed (e.g., CPAN, Collaborative Care Managers).

**Value proposition** - Improving capacity to provide mental health service and support access through the pediatrician and primary care setting decreases stigma and negative bias to seeking appropriate care, increases timely, accurate and effective treatment of mental health condition symptoms.

# Opportunity For Change: Primary Care

Expand and enhance programs that promote emotional well-being, nurturing environments, and prevention of adverse childhood experiences.

**Strategy I** - Increase capacity and collaboration among schools and community organizations for a robust Multi-Tiered System of Supports model as endorsed by the Texas Education Agency's Long-Range Plan.

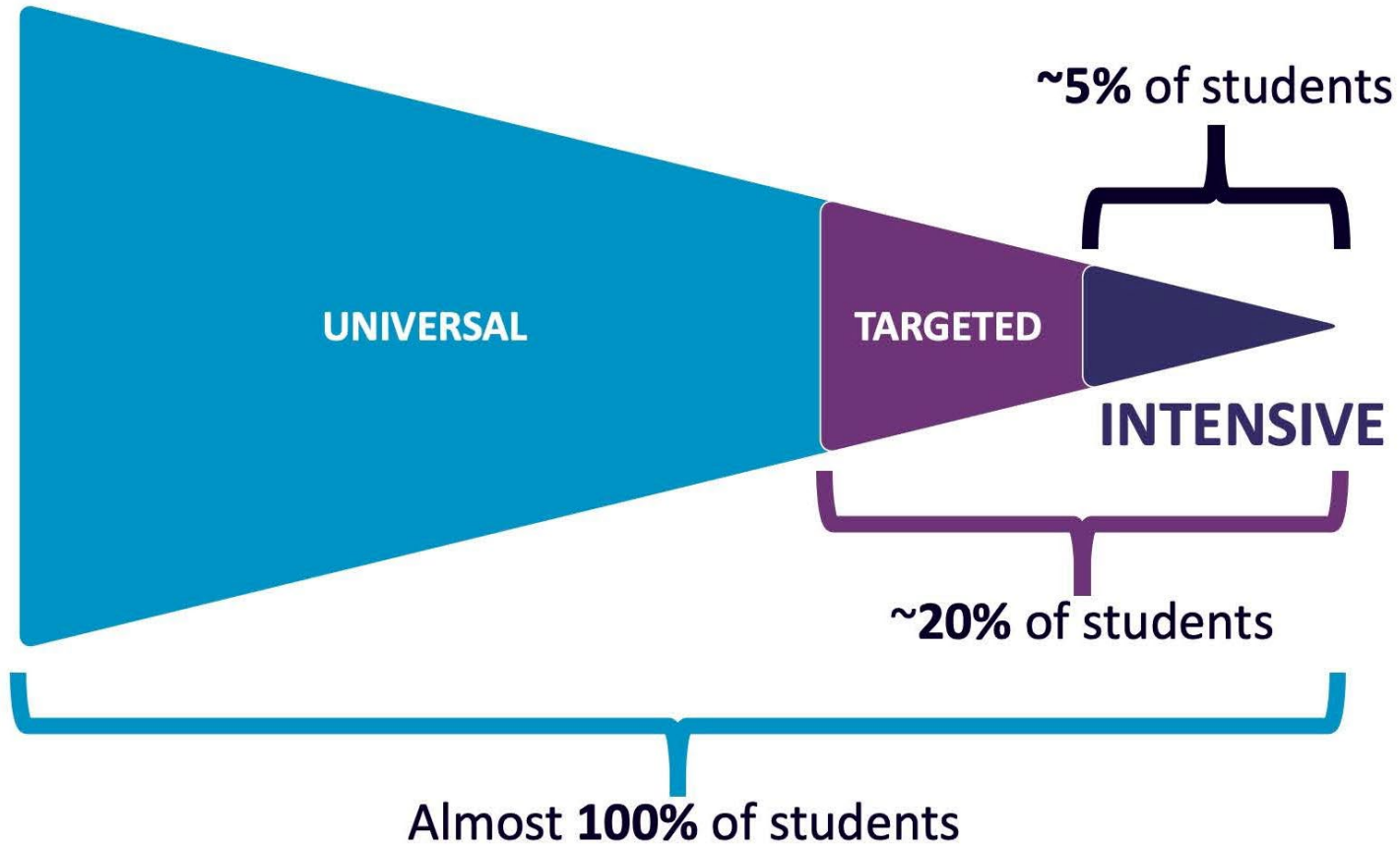
**Strategy II** - Increase promotion and availability of interventions that promote kindness and caring (e.g., random acts of kindness activities).

**Strategy III** - Strengthen Region 19 support and related school Liaison functions (e.g., MTSS, PBIS, CIS, CYSI).

**Strategy IV** - Increase school coordination with community services to provide emotional well-being (e.g., mindfulness and resilience exercises - upstream interventions) and timely access to screening and access to treatment (e.g., recognizing mental health treatment access as an excused absence).

**Value proposition** -A sound foundation of emotional health promotion and crisis prevention programs and services available where and when they are needed contributes to the ability for individuals and families to cope with life events and prevent adverse childhood experiences.

Figure 2: The MTSS Tiers





# Open Discussion



**Next Meeting Target:**

**Monday, December 9<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am**