

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, 19th Floor El Paso, Texas 79901 Meeting Room C

Attendees:	Representing:	E-Mail:
Sharon Butterworth	Paso del Norte Center at Meadows Institute	sharonbutterworth@mac.com
Daniely Gutierrez	Region 19 Education Services Center	dgutierrez@esc19.net
Rebeka Isaac	Emergence Health Network	Rebeka.isaac@ehnelpaso.org
Josue Lachica	Paso del Norte Center at Meadows Institute	ilachica@mmhpi.org
Vanessa Leon	Heart Gallery of El Paso	vanessa@heartgalleryofelpaso.org
Dr. Sarah Martin	TTUHSC El Paso CPAN/TCHATT – FC Chair	sarah.l.martin@ttuhsc.edu
Enrique Mata	Paso del Norte Center at Meadows Institute	emata@mmhpi.org
Kathie Valencia	El Paso Center for Children	kvalencia@epccinc.org
Wes Temple	Region 19 Education Services Center	wtemple@ESC19.NET
Dr. Maria Torres	Jesuit Refugee Service	maria.torres@jrsusa.org

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 (TCHATT) 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
- o the El Paso Medical Society
- medical office manager association
- medical coder association
- APRN association
- o 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 9th 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:

Noemi Armendariz TTUHSC EI Paso CPAN/TCHATT noemi.armendariz@ttuhsc.edu Sharon Butterworth Paso del Norte Center at Meadows Institute sharonbutterworth@mac.com Dr. Sandra Calderon KWCA El Paso del Norte Region s.calderonmunoz@ywcaelpaso.org Mariana Cardenas El Paso Child Guidance Center lecniceros Luis Ceniceros Aliviane Inc. lecniceros@aliviane.org Gus Cohen YWCA El Paso del Norte Region A.Cohen@ywcaelpaso.org Sandra Day Paso del Norte Health Foundation sday@pdnfoundation.org Gilda Gil Paso del Norte Children's Development Center glida_gli@pdnchildrens.org Daniely Gutierrez Region 19 Education Services Center adziane.Harrel Adrianne Harrel TTUHSC El Paso CPAN/TCHATT Adrianne.Harrel@ittuhsc.edu Rebeka Isaac Emergence Health Network Rebeka.isaac@ehnelpaso.org Josue Lachica Paso del Norte Center at Meadows Institute vanessa@heartgalleryofelpaso.org Violeta Lopez-Unzueta United Way of El Paso viopezunzueta@unitedwayelpaso.org Laura Marquez Paso del Norte Children's Development Center aura.marquez@pdnchildrens.org Ruben Marquez <th>Attendee:</th> <th>Representing:</th> <th>E-Mail:</th>	Attendee:	Representing:	E-Mail:
Dr. Sandra Calderon Mariana Cardenas El Paso Child Guidance Center Mariana Cardenas El Paso Child Guidance Center Mariana Cardenas El Paso Child Guidance Center Micardenas@epcgc.org Luis Ceniceros Aliviane Inc. Gus Cohen YWCA El Paso del Norte Region David Cotchery American Gl Forum/National Veterans Outreach Sandra Day Paso del Norte Health Foundation Gilda Gil Paso del Norte Children's Development Center Daniely Gutierrez Region 19 Education Services Center Adrianne Harrel TTUHSC El Paso CPAN/TCHATT Rebeka Isaac Bemergence Health Network Rebeka Isaac Vanessa Leon Heart Gallery of El Paso Violeta Lopez-Unzuet United Way of El Paso Violeta Lopez-Unzuet Marquez Paso del Norte Children's Development Center Dr. Sarah Martin TTUHSC El Paso CPAN/TCHATT Enrique Mata Paso del Norte Center at Meadows Institute Paso del Norte Children's Development Center Dr. Sarah Martin TTUHSC El Paso CPAN/TCHATT TTUHSC El Paso CPAN/TCHATT Sarah Martin TTUHSC El Paso CPAN/TCHATT Enrique Mata Paso del Norte Center at Meadows Institute Paso del Norte Center at Meadows Institute TTUHSC El Paso CPAN/TCHATT Sarah Martin TTUHSC El Paso CPAN/TCHATT Sarah Inartin@ttuhsc.edu Enrique Mata Paso del Norte Center at Meadows Institute Enrique Mata Paso del Norte Center at Meadows Institute Enrique Mata Paso del Norte Center at Meadows Institute Enrique Mata Paso del Norte Center at Meadows Institute Enrique Mata Paso del Norte Center at Meadows Institute Enrique Mata Paso del Norte Center at Meadows Institute Enrique Mata Paso del Norte Center at Meadows Institute Enrique Mata Paso del Norte Center at Meadows Institute Enrique Mata Paso del Norte Center at Meadows Institute Enrique Mata Paso del Norte Center at Meadows Institute Enrique Mata Paso del Norte Center at Meadows Institute Enrique Mata Paso del Norte Center at Meadows Institute Enrique Mata Paso del Norte Center at Meadows Institute Enrique Mata Paso del Norte Center at Meadows Institute Enrique Mata Paso del Norte Center at Meadows Institute Enrique Mata Paso del Norte Center at Meado	Noemi Armendariz	TTUHSC EI Paso CPAN/TCHATT	noemi.armendariz@ttuhsc.edu
Mariana Cardenass El Paso Child Guidance Center mcardenas@epcgc.org Luis Ceniceros Aliviane Inc. lceniceros@aliviane.org Gus Cohen YWCA El Paso del Norte Region A.Cohen@ywcaelpaso.org David Cotchery American Gl Forum/National Veterans Outreach dcotchery@agif-nvop.org Sandra Day Paso del Norte Health Foundation sday@pdnfoundation.org Gilda Gil Paso del Norte Children's Development Center gilda_gil@pdnchildrens.org Daniely Gutierrez Region 19 Education Services Center dgutierrez@esc19.net Adrianne Harrel TTUHSC El Paso CPAN/TCHATT Adrianne. Harrel@ttuhsc.edu Rebeka Isaac Emergence Health Network Rebeka isaac@ehnelpaso.org Josue Lachica Paso del Norte Center at Meadows Institute ljachica@mmhpi.org Vanessa Leon Heart Gallery of El Paso vanessa@heartgalleryofelpaso.org Violeta Lopez-Unzueta United Way of El Paso vlopezunzueta@unitedwayelpaso.org Violeta Lopez-Unzueta United Way of El Paso vlopezunzueta@unitedwayelpaso.org Ruben Marquez Paso del Norte Children's Development Center laura.marquez@agif-nvop.org Ruben Marquez American Gl Forum/National Veterans Outreach marquez@agi	Sharon Butterworth	Paso del Norte Center at Meadows Institute	sharonbutterworth@mac.com
Luis Ceniceros Aliviane Inc. Iceniceros@aliviane.org Gus Cohen YWCA El Paso del Norte Region A.Cohen@ywcaelpaso.org David Cotchery American Gl Forum/National Veterans Outreach Sandra Day Paso del Norte Health Foundation sday@pdnfoundation.org Gilda Gil Paso del Norte Children's Development Center Daniely Gutierrez Region 19 Education Services Center dgutierrez@esc19.net Adrianne Harrel TTUHSC El Paso CPAN/TCHATT Adrianne.Harrel@ttuhsc.edu Rebeka Isaac Emergence Health Network Rebeka.isaac@ehnelpaso.org Josue Lachica Paso del Norte Center at Meadows Institute Jlachica@mmhpi.org Vanessa Leon Heart Gallery of El Paso Veto Veto Veto Veto Veto Veto Veto Vet	Dr. Sandra Calderon	YWCA El Paso del Norte Region	s.calderonmunoz@ywcaelpaso.org
Gus Cohen YWCA El Paso del Norte Region David Cotchery American Gl Forum/National Veterans Outreach Sandra Day Paso del Norte Health Foundation Gilda Gil Paso del Norte Children's Development Center Baniely Gutierrez Region 19 Education Services Center Adrianne Harrel TTUHSC El Paso CPAN/TCHATT Adrianne.Harrel@ttuhsc.edu Rebeka Isaac Bemergence Health Network Josue Lachica Paso del Norte Center at Meadows Institute Vanessa Leon Heart Gallery of El Paso Violeta Lopez-Unzueta United Way of El Paso Violeta Lopez-Unzueta United Way of El Paso Violeta Marquez Paso del Norte Children's Development Center Ruben Marquez American Gl Forum/National Veterans Outreach TTUHSC El Paso CPAN/TCHATT Ruben Marquez American Gl Forum/National Veterans Outreach TTUHSC El Paso CPAN/TCHATT Sarah Martin TTUHSC El Paso CPAN/TCHATT Sarah.I.martin@ttuhsc.edu Enrique Mata Paso del Norte Center at Meadows Institute Claudia Munoz Texas Department of Family Protective Services Claudia Munoz Celeste Nevarez Emergence Health Network Celes	Mariana Cardenas	El Paso Child Guidance Center	mcardenas@epcgc.org
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Adrianne Harrel Rebeka Isaac Emergence Health Network Rebeka Isaac Josue Lachica Paso del Norte Center at Meadows Institute Vanessa Leon Heart Gallery of El Paso Violeta Lopez-Unzueta United Way of El Paso Outreach rmarquez@agif-nvop.org rmarquez@agif-nvop.org rmarquez@agif-nvop.org rmarquez@agif-nvop.org sarah.l.martin@ttuhsc.edu emata@mmhpi.org Claudia Munoz Texas Department of Family Protective Services Claudia Munoz Claudia Munoz Texas Department of Family Protective Services Claudia munoz@dfps.texas.gov Celeste Nevarez Emergence Health Network cnevarez@EHNELPASO.ORG Mida Ponce Casa of El Paso Mida Ponce Casa of El Paso Independent School District Emily Stuessy El Paso Independent School District Emily Stuessy El Paso Independent School District Ekstuess@episd.org Wes Temple Region 19 Education Services Center Trutted Way of El Paso Center for Children En aura.marquez@entersialleryofelpaso.org Vanessa@heartgalleryofelpaso.org Vanessa@heartgalleryofelpaso.org Vanessa@heartgalleryofelpaso.org Vanessa@heartgalleryofelpaso.org Vanessa@heartgalleryofelpaso.org Vanessa@heartgalleryofelpaso.org Vanessa@heartgalleryofelpaso.org Vanessa@heartgalleryofelpaso.org Vanessa@heartgalleryofelpaso.org Vanesamentgaleryofelpaso.org Vanesamentgaleryofelpaso.org Vanesamentgaleryofelpaso.org Vanesamentgaleryofelpaso.org Vanesamentgaleryofelpaso.org Vanesamentgaleryofelpaso.org Vanesamentgaleryofelpaso.org Vanesamentgaleryofelpaso.org Vanesamentgaleryofelpaso.org Vane	Gilda Gil	Paso del Norte Children's Development Center	gilda.gil@pdnchildrens.org
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Josue Lachica Vanessa Leon Heart Gallery of El Paso Violeta Lopez-Unzueta United Way of El Paso Orgezunzueta@unitedwayelpaso.org Iaura.marquez@agif-nvop.org rmarquez@agif-nvop.org rmarquez@agif-nvop.org rmarquez@agif-nvop.org sarah.l.martin@ttuhsc.edu emata@mmhpi.org Claudia Munoz Texas Department of Family Protective Services Claudia.munoz@dfps.texas.gov Celeste Nevarez Emergence Health Network cnevarez@EHNELPASO.ORG Mida Ponce Casa of El Paso mponce@casaofelpaso.org Julie Priego Aliviane Inc. jpriego@aliviane.org Kim Shumate County of El Paso Juvenile Justice Center Emily Stuessy El Paso Independent School District ekstuess@episd.org Wes Temple Region 19 Education Services Center Dr. Maria Torres Jesuit Refugee Service Kathie Valencia El Paso Center for Children	Adrianne Harrel	TTUHSC EI Paso CPAN/TCHATT	Adrianne.Harrel@ttuhsc.edu
Vanessa LeonHeart Gallery of El Pasovanessa@heartgalleryofelpaso.orgVioleta Lopez-UnzuetaUnited Way of El Pasovlopezunzueta@unitedwayelpaso.orgLaura MarquezPaso del Norte Children's Development Centerlaura.marquez@pdnchildrens.orgRuben MarquezAmerican Gl Forum/National Veterans Outreachrmarquez@agif-nvop.orgDr. Sarah MartinTTUHSC El Paso CPAN/TCHATTsarah.l.martin@ttuhsc.eduEnrique MataPaso del Norte Center at Meadows Instituteemata@mmhpi.orgClaudia MunozTexas Department of Family Protective Servicesclaudia.munoz@dfps.texas.govCeleste NevarezEmergence Health Networkcnevarez@EHNELPASO.ORGMida PonceCasa of El Pasomponce@casaofelpaso.orgJulie PriegoAliviane Inc.ipriego@aliviane.orgKim ShumateCounty of El Paso Juvenile Justice Centerk.shumate@elpasocountytx.govEmily StuessyEl Paso Independent School Districtekstuess@episd.orgWes TempleRegion 19 Education Services Centerwtemple@ESC19.NETDr. Maria TorresJesuit Refugee Servicemaria.torres@jrsusa.orgKathie ValenciaEl Paso Center for Childrenkvalencia@epccinc.org	Rebeka Isaac	Emergence Health Network	
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Laura Marquez Ruben Marquez American GI Forum/National Veterans Outreach Dr. Sarah Martin Enrique Mata Claudia Munoz Celeste Nevarez Emergence Health Network Mida Ponce Julie Priego Kim Shumate County of El Paso Juvenile Justice Center Emily Stuessy Wes Temple Dr. Maria Torres Kathie Valencia Enrique Martin Dr. Sarah Martin TTUHSC El Paso CPAN/TCHATT Sarah.l.martin@ttuhsc.edu emata@mmhpi.org claudia.munoz@dfps.texas.gov claudia.munoz@dfps.texas.gov claudia.munoz@dfps.texas.gov cnevarez@EHNELPASO.ORG mponce@casaofelpaso.org ipriego@aliviane.org k.shumate@elpasocountytx.gov ekstuess@episd.org wtemple@ESC19.NET maria.torres@jrsusa.org kvalencia@epccinc.org			
Ruben Marquez Dr. Sarah Martin TTUHSC El Paso CPAN/TCHATT Enrique Mata Paso del Norte Center at Meadows Institute Claudia Munoz Texas Department of Family Protective Services Celeste Nevarez Emergence Health Network Mida Ponce Julie Priego Aliviane Inc. Kim Shumate County of El Paso Juvenile Justice Center Emily Stuessy Wes Temple Region 19 Education Services Center Kathie Valencia El Paso Center for Children American Gl Forum/National Veterans Outreach rmarquez@agif-nvop.org sarah.l.martin@ttuhsc.edu emata@mmhpi.org claudia.munoz@dfps.texas.gov claudia.munoz@dfps.texas.gov claudia.munoz@dfps.texas.gov claudia.munoz@dfps.texas.gov cnevarez@EHNELPASO.ORG mponce@casaofelpaso.org jpriego@aliviane.org k.shumate@elpasocountytx.gov ekstuess@episd.org wtemple@ESC19.NET maria.torres@jrsusa.org kvalencia@epccinc.org	Violeta Lopez-Unzueta United Way of El Paso <u>vlopezunzueta@uni</u>		zunzueta@unitedwayelpaso.org
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Julie Priego Aliviane Inc. jpriego@aliviane.org Kim Shumate County of El Paso Juvenile Justice Center k.shumate@elpasocountytx.gov Emily Stuessy El Paso Independent School District ekstuess@episd.org Wes Temple Region 19 Education Services Center wtemple@ESC19.NET Dr. Maria Torres Jesuit Refugee Service maria.torres@jrsusa.org Kathie Valencia El Paso Center for Children kvalencia@epccinc.org	Celeste Nevarez	Emergence Health Network	cnevarez@EHNELPASO.ORG
Kim Shumate County of El Paso Juvenile Justice Center Emily Stuessy El Paso Independent School District Wes Temple Pr. Maria Torres Sesuit Refugee Service El Paso Center for Children k.shumate@elpasocountytx.gov ekstuess@episd.org wtemple@ESC19.NET maria.torres@jrsusa.org kvalencia@epccinc.org	Mida Ponce	Casa of El Paso	mponce@casaofelpaso.org
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Dr. Maria TorresJesuit Refugee Servicemaria.torres@jrsusa.orgKathie ValenciaEl Paso Center for Childrenkvalencia@epccinc.org	Emily Stuessy	El Paso Independent School District	ekstuess@episd.org
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	Dr. Maria Torres	Jesuit Refugee Service	maria.torres@jrsusa.org
Sophia Wozniak Emergence Health Network <u>sophia.wozniak@ehnelpaso.org</u>	Kathie Valencia	El Paso Center for Children	kvalencia@epccinc.org
	Sophia Wozniak	Emergence Health Network	sophia.wozniak@ehnelpaso.org







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First Connection Work Group
October 28th 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).

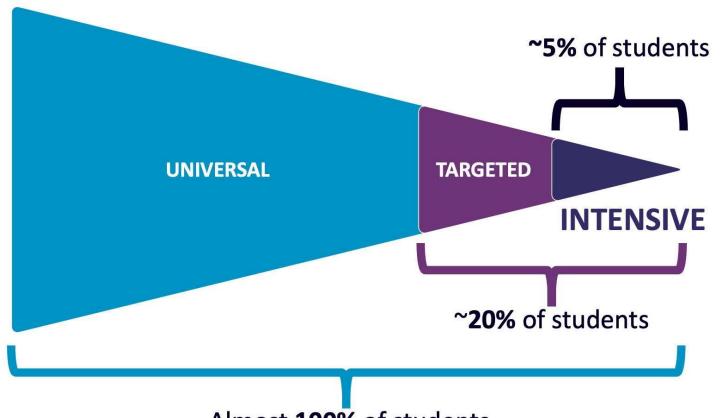
Strategy III - Strengthen Region 19 support and related school Liaison functions (e.g., MTSS, PBIS, CIS, CYSI.

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



Almost 100% of students





Open Discussion





Next Meeting Target: Monday, December 9th at 9:00 am

