



ILC El Paso County Future Child Mental Health Service Needs

Meeting Notes

October 9, 2024

10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Paso del Norte Health Foundation

Meeting Room C

221 N. Kansas, 19th Floor

El Paso, Texas 79901

Attendees:

Sandra Day
Chrystal Davis
Dr. Sarah Martin
Josue Lachica
Ashley Peterson
Tracy Yellen

Representing:

Paso del Norte Health Foundation – Program Lead
Emergence Health Network – Chief Clinical Officer
Texas Tech HSC El Paso – Child Psychiatry
PdN Center at Meadows Institute- Project Manager
Emergence Health Network – Associate CEO
Paso del Norte Community Foundation and
Paso del Norte Health Foundation – CEO (virtual)

Welcome

Enrique Mata convened the meeting at 10:03 a.m. and called for brief introductions.

Brief History of Child and Youth Specialty Care

Enrique Mata provided an overview of El Paso County history related to child and youth mental health and substance use specialty services (including inpatient care, Partial Hospitalization Programs (PHP), and Intensive Outpatient Programs (IOP)). He shared information from 2014 through today for the group to begin the discussion with as much information surrounding the rationale for the meeting as possible. PowerPoint slides related to the presentation and the overall discussion are included with these notes.

Open Discussion on Future Child and Youth MH Needs

- The group identified that access to hospital beds for child and adolescent inpatient care is not currently a problem with the available for-profit beds in the El Paso area.
- The gaps are in the areas of respite care and IDD services.
- There is a challenge with access to PHP and IOP services as they are not currently covered under Medicaid, yet these services are often a preferred option over full inpatient admission for a child or adolescent. For example, in the 88th Legislative Session, bills were submitted for broader coverage of these types of services.

- It is perceived that coverage for care tends to default to inpatient care. The group discussed the possibilities if reimbursement for children and youth complex needs were to emphasize other service options for admission and post inpatient care.

Next Meeting and Who is missing?

The PdN Center will gather information based on today's discussion. Since not all the organizations invited were represented, a meeting will be scheduled to convene the same group as soon as new information is gathered.

Adjourn

Mr. Mata adjourned the meeting at 11:02 am.



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**El Paso County Future
Child Mental Health Service
Needs**

El Paso County Future Child Mental Health Service Needs Agenda:

-  **Welcome and Introductions**
-  **Brief History of Child and Youth Specialty Care**
-  **Open Discussion on Future Child and Youth MH Needs**
-  **Next Meeting and Who Else is Needed**
-  **Adjourn**

**El Paso County Future
Child Mental Health Service Needs
October 9, 2024 Meeting Participants:**

- | | |
|---|---|
|  Tracy Yellen | Paso del Norte Community Foundation and
Paso del Norte Health Foundation |
|  Dr. Sarah Martin | Texas Tech HSC El Paso – Psychiatry |
|  Ashley Peterson | Emergence Health Network – Assoc. CEO |
|  Chrystal Davis | Emergence Health Network – Chief Clinical Officer |
|  Josue Lachica | PdN Center at Meadows Institute - Project Manager |
|  Sandra Day | Paso del Norte Health Foundation - APO |



Brief History of Child and Youth Specialty Care

Opportunity For Change:

2014 El Paso Behavioral Health System Assessment:

- **Close the EPPC Child Inpatient Unit, and develop best practice child inpatient capacity over time at another community facility.**
- **This unit has been underused for a decade and multiple efforts to increase utilization have failed for a variety of reasons, none of which addressable by EPPC or any single actor within the system.**
- **Furthermore, even if fully utilized, the basic design of the unit (seven total child and adolescent beds) is inefficient and unable to leverage any economies of scale. These resources (both physical and staff) would be better used to augment other child and adolescent inpatient capacity in the community better situated to function as a robust center for child and adolescent acute care.**

Opportunity For Change:

2014 El Paso Behavioral Health System Assessment:

- **It would be ideal for El Paso County to have child and adolescent inpatient capacity physically integrated within its children's hospital so that the overall health of El Paso children with acute needs requiring inpatient care can be addressed in a single, state-of-the-art facility.**
- **However, physical and programmatic constraints (not the least of which is a severe lack of child psychiatric providers) will likely require a concerted effort over multiple years to realize such a vision.**
- **In the meantime, UBH and Peak are the leading child psychiatric acute care providers in the community and seem to be the natural candidates for development of an alternative program.**

El Paso Youth Sequential Intercept Model (SIM) Report

October 2023 Findings for Intercept 00

SIM Map - Intercept 00

El Paso SIM Map: Intercept 00

Intercept 00 COMMUNITY PREVENTION & INTERVENTION, BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES			Intercept 0 SCHOOLS		
PUBLIC HEALTH	<p><u>Youth/Family Programs</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lee Moor Children Home • Ciudad Nueva Community Outreach • Community Solutions of El Paso • El Paso Child Guidance Center • Child Crisis Center of El Paso • El Paso Center for Children 	<p><u>Behavioral Health & EHN</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crisis Lines (988) • Warm Lines/Resource Lines • MCOT (see Intercept 1) • Intensive Services: YES Waiver, Multisystemic Therapy, Level of Care 4 • Coordinated Specialty Care for First Episode Psychosis • Crisis Extended Observation Unit24/7 • Youth & Family Partners 	<p><u>Youth SUD & Peer Supports</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aliviane Outpatient & Youth Services • National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) • Children's Grief Center of El Paso • Sovereign Health of Texas 	INTERCEPT 1: LAW ENFORCEMENT	
	<p><u>Afterschool/Mentor/Career</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UTEP's El Paso Collaborative for Academic Excellence (Opportunity Youth Initiative) • Big Brothers/Big Sisters • Faith-based Institutions • Boys & Girls Club • YMCA, YWCA • Community Centers • Workforce Solutions • Opportunity Center 	<p><u>Counseling Services</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pinnacle Social Services • Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center • New Leaf Counseling • Counseling Center of Expressive Arts • Family Services of El Paso • Living Hope Christian Counseling Service • Catholic Counseling Services, Inc. • Amistad Family Counseling Center • Steven A Cohen Military Family Clinic Endeavors • La Familia del Paso, Inc. 	<p><u>Medical/BH Supports</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Vida • Centro San Vicente • Centro de Salud La Fe • University Medical Center • El Paso Behavioral Health • PEAK Behavioral Hospital • Northeast Counseling Services • Behavior Health Support Services • El Paso Psychiatric Center • RVBH PRISM Program 		<p>School-based Supports, Systems, and Services: YISD SISD EPISD</p>
	<p><u>Case Management</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Methodist Children's Home EP Outreach • El Paso United Family Resiliency Center • Project Amistad 	<p><u>Housing</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • El Paso Coalition for Homeless • Multiple Shelters (full list at epchomeless.org) 	<p><u>Child Welfare/Family Crisis</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CASA • Paso del Norte Center of Hope • Center against Sexual and Family Violence • Advocacy Center for the Children of El Paso • El Paso Center for Children Runaway Center Against Family Violence Family Resource Center • El Paso Human Services, Inc. • Sexual Trauma and Assault Response Services (STARS) 		<p>Exclusionary School Discipline & Alternative Schools YISD SISD EPISD</p>
	<p><u>Prevention/Collaboratives</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family Leadership Council (& Consortium) • Paso del Norte Health Foundation • Programs: Smoke Free, etc. • System of Care Grant • CRCG Referral/Diversion- JPD referrals for youth under 11 • JPD Prevention and Intervention Program 30-45 day, 6-17 yo • Youth Mental Health First Aid 				

Key Findings

- **Prevention:** Elementary schools often lack preventive measures or programs aimed at addressing issues such as behavioral problems, mental health challenges, or substance abuse in their early stages. Without early prevention programs, schools and communities are forced to address these issues only when they have already become significant problems. This late intervention can result in more complex and challenging situations to resolve.
- **Child Psychiatry:** In 2020, El Paso County had 67 licensed psychiatrists. Of these, only 18 reported a specialization in child and adolescent psychiatry, pediatric psychiatry, or developmental-behavioral pediatrics.
- **Intensive Services:** In El Paso County, there is a shortage of providers who offer intensive community-based services. A lack of sufficient intensive community-based services that allow children and youth to thrive at home and in their communities could lead to an overreliance on more restrictive placements, such as psychiatric hospitals and juvenile detention.
- **Youth Voice:** Explore the establishment of a state-funded Youth Crisis Respite (YCR) Center and explore opportunities to further partner with law enforcement and El Paso County Juvenile Probation to serve youth that may be appropriate for diversion to the YCR.



So What Has Improved?

So What Has Improved:

- Rio Vista Behavioral Hospital build in 2020 increased availability of for profit child and adolescent beds to serve children ages 11 to 17 ½
- Increased availability of Partial Hospitalization and Intensive Outpatient Programs
 - Rio Vista Behavioral Hospital
 - El Paso Behavioral Health System
 - Emergence Health Network
- Increased participation in active sharing of electronic records via PHIX
- Increased availability of Multi Systemic Therapy and First Episode Psychosis services and supports
- El Paso Children's Hospital Developed a more robust Behavioral Service Array
- Additional capacity in the Texas Tech Child Psychiatry Resident and Fellows Programs



Open Discussion on Future Child and Youth MH Needs

Opportunity For Change:

2014 El Paso Behavioral Health System Assessment:

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- **However, physical and programmatic constraints (not the least of which is a severe lack of child psychiatric providers) will likely require a concerted effort over multiple years to realize such a vision.**

El Paso Respite Models?

Figure 9. Uvalde Region Behavioral Health Campus



Current Assets:

- **Increased program supports from EHN and other community service providers (e.g. youth trauma, grief and addiction services)**
- **Increased PESC State Funding to assist with Child and Adolescent Inpatient Needs**
- **Increased willingness to partner from El Paso Behavioral Health System, Rio Vista Behavioral Hospital and Peak Behavioral In Sunland Park**
- **El Paso Children's hospital exploring behavioral health services for children and youth**

FAMILY EDUCATIONAL SUPPORTS

Education about diagnosis, available treatments, and prognosis



MEDICAL EVALUATION & TREATMENT

Comprehensive diagnostic evaluation and precision psychiatry to optimize holistic functioning



FAMILY NAVIGATION



INDIVIDUAL & FAMILY SKILL BUILDING

Individual and family therapy, psychosocial rehabilitation, peer support, and educational supports



CARE COORDINATION

Schools, primary care, and engagement with broader community



Pediatric Center of Excellence

Core Elements

- Comprehensive interdisciplinary evaluation
- Family involvement and support
- Case management and navigation
- Address social determinants of health

Specialized Interventions

- Diagnostic expertise
- Psychopharmacology
- Individual and group therapies
- Family therapy
- School psychology
- Social work
- Outpatient programs
- Inpatient care

Implementation Site Essentials

- Strong existing infrastructure
- Inpatient unit
- Availability of interventional psychiatry
- Academic institution
- Research capabilities
- Growth capacity

Future El Paso Area Strategies:

- **Match Service Design of a Pediatric Treatment Resistant Depression Center of Excellence**
 - It may be worthy of exploration to inventory El Paso provider services available within the current continuum of care and compare to ideal system models like the Phase II Pedi-COE Report.
- **State policy to ensure there is always increased State Funding for El Paso to assist with Child and Adolescent Specialty Care Needs**
 - Explore next steps with 88th Leg Session SB 1177 which provides for MCOs to fund PHP and IOP – PdN Center will follow up with the Meadows Leg Team on status.
 - Explore possibilities to change the culture of funding defaults to inpatient care as opposed to PHP and IOP as optimal options for child and youth care.
- **Increase strength and capacity of partnerships with El Paso Behavioral Health System, Rio Vista Behavioral Hospital, El Paso Children’s Hospital and Peak Behavioral:**
 - Explore increased capacity for psychiatric residents and fellows to gain experience
 - Explore improved coordination of care for patients discharged from inpatient care to step down services
- **Explore step down care options (e.g. respite care services and IDD – Autism care collaborations) with local nonprofit service providers and El Paso Children’s hospital**



Open Discussion on Future Child and Youth MH Needs



NEXT MEETING – Who Else Is Needed

Adjourn