



### **Meeting Notes**

September 27, 2024

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

Paso del Norte Health Foundation

Meeting Room C

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

El Paso, Texas 79901

#### **Attendees:**

Elizabeth Arrellano  
Sharon Butterworth  
Joel Bishop  
Cynthia Caro  
Christina Chavez  
Daniela Chisholm  
Michael Cuccaro  
Chrystal Davis (Vice Chair)  
Christopher Hendricks  
Catherine Jones  
Josue Lachica  
Enrique Mata  
Edy Payan  
Ana Perez  
Rhonda Russ  
Stan Standridge  
Isidro Torres  
Anna Basler-White  
Britni Yohannes

#### **Representing:**

County of El Paso Criminal Justice Coordination  
Paso del Norte Center at Meadows Institute  
County of El Paso Administration  
County of El Paso CSCD  
County of El Paso CSCD  
El Paso County Attorney's Office  
County of El Paso Administration  
Emergence Health Network  
Emergence Health Network  
County of El Paso Criminal Justice Coordination  
Paso del Norte Center at Meadows Institute  
Paso del Norte Center at Meadows Institute  
County of El Paso Public Defender's Office  
Judge 41<sup>st</sup> District Court  
Emergence Health Network  
San Marcos Chief of Police (Via Zoom)  
NAMI El Paso  
Emergence Health Network  
County of El Paso Public Defender's Office

#### **Welcome**

Chrystal Davis convened the meeting at 9:05 a.m. and called for brief introductions.

#### **HHSC Jail In-Reach Programming**

Anna Basler-White provided an overview of new developments implementing Jail In-Reach programming in the El Paso County Jail System. She shared that their teams are working with resources for individuals that have been found incompetent to help them get out of jail as soon as possible. These include education opportunities and policy and practice reviews as per the HHSC model. A flyer explaining the model is included with these notes.

#### **Jail Based Competency Restoration**

Christopher Hendricks and Chrystal Davis shared new information on efforts to improve options for competency restoration. The pilot project will serve 10-12 individuals and is working out of the D Unit at the Jail Annex. There is now a trained team including a Program Manager, Therapist Case worker, and a court navigator. There are currently 86 individuals waiting for competency restoration in the Jail Annex.

### **Mental Health Law Plan and The Judicial Commission on Mental Health (JCMH)**

Judge Ana Perez and Daniela Chisholm provided reflections on the July 24<sup>th</sup> meeting and shared that a first draft of the Mental Health Law Plan with recommended next steps is in the works and expected from the JCMH soon. It was noted how important representation from El Paso's justice leaders will be at the upcoming [JCMH annual Mental Health Summit](#) to be held on November 20-22 Mental health Summit.

### **Justice Leadership Coordinating Committee**

Michael Cuccaro and Joel Bishop commented on the efforts of the JLCC to improve county justice and diversion systems. They explained that the Specialty Courts Committee held a training last week entitled All Rise with Dr. Ocaranza as a keynote speaker presenting national trends and the local public health perspective on Mental Health and Substance Use Conditions. Mr. Cuccaro responded to questions on Jail Population increases because Operation Lonestar. They also noted the following:

- it is the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Judge Anchondo's DWI Court.
- Mr. Bishop identified that they are seeing through data that the largest disparity in jail are the individuals who have been flagged Mental Health (MH) in their record. Data show that instead of streamlining and assisting individuals by adding this MH flag, it was identified that inmates sit in jail 4 times longer than those that do not get flagged leading to other negative effects by keeping people in jail longer.
- Mr. Bishop offered a more in-depth review of the data at the next JLC meeting. He will work with PdN Center staff to bring in Ms. Jesse Tyler a consultant who is assisting with data collection and analysis.
- Mr. Bishop also announced that thanks to a new partnership with Emergence Health Network (EHN), El Paso County will have a new Sobering Center. EHN will utilize \$2 million in ARPA funding and explore possible ongoing Opioid Settlement funding to develop a model center at their 1600 Montana location.

### **Jail Diversion Committee**

Ms. Edy Payan provided an update on the activity at the last Jail Diversion Committee Meeting. It was noted that Meeting notes are circulated along with important information being shared with local community organization leaders. This meeting is held on the first Wednesday of every month at 11:30 am. The meetings are currently held via Zoom. The most recent Jail Diversion Meeting Minutes are included with these notes.

The group also discussed updates from the Public Defender's Office, jail diversion tracking, and possible related refinements in data gathering and use. In addition, the topic of training appointed attorneys to handle mental health cases was mentioned as vital for the successful

diversion of individuals in need of care as opposed to inappropriately entering the justice system.

### **Crisis System**

Rhonda Russ provided an overview of coordinated efforts with Mobile Crisis Outreach Teams (MCOT) and the area crisis support systems.

### **Reentry Work Group**

Catherine Jones and Elizabeth Williams reported that the reentry work group has been redeveloping and building stronger connections among community organizations working with individuals leaving the justice system. The group discussed several improvements including recent presentations offered through the work group. This group targets meetings on the last Friday of each month. Ms. Jones responded to questions from the group.

### **Policy Research Associates Transitional Age SIM Opportunity**

Enrique Mata provided an update that Dr. Violette Cloud and her Team were not able to include a visit to El Paso under their current funding. The group, however, did provide a series of virtual workshops for partners to learn about recent developments with Transition Age Youth (TAY). They recommend El Paso submit as soon as the new fiscal year technical support grant opportunities develop to request at SIM with special focus on TAY to gather community stakeholders working with individuals in the transition age from youth to adulthood. 17 ½ - 24 years of age for a day and a half SIM session possibly in March 2025.

### **Other Business**

Isidro Torres updated the group on NAMI El Paso's NAMI Walk coming up on Saturday, October 19<sup>th</sup>. He called for those present to share this information with their friends and family.

Mr. Torres added that the 40th Anniversary NAMI Texas Annual Conference is Coming to El Paso! - **on November 7-9, 2024**. Every year, NAMI Texas hosts an Annual Conference and Awards Celebration. These events bring together individuals living with mental illness, family members, professionals, and the general public to highlight the latest updates in the mental health field, exchange information, and celebrate the year's successes. For more information on tickets for the event visit: <https://namitexas.org/get-involved/nami-texas-annual-conference/>. A tip for non-members: Individuals can become a NAMI member for just \$5 and save \$20 on the event ticket. For more information visit: <https://my.nami.org/join-nami>

### **Adjourn**

Ms. Davis adjourned the meeting at 10:20 am.



## HHSC's Jail In-Reach Learning Collaborative

The Jail In-Reach Learning Collaborative (JIRLC) supports county forensic teams in identifying strategies to actively monitor people in county jails who have been found incompetent to stand trial and are awaiting admission into a State Hospital.

### Who?

County forensic teams representing key stakeholders from local mental health authorities and local behavioral health authorities, county sheriffs' offices, jail administration, jail medical/psychiatric providers, prosecution, defense counsel, and the judiciary.

### What?

- JIRLC participants will work directly with the Health and Human Services Commission's Chief of Forensic Medicine, the Office of Forensic Coordination, Forensic and Jail Diversion Services, and Legal Services Division to receive:



#### Clinical Consultations

- Difficult clinical cases
- Medication management
- Guidance on competency restoration
- Guidance on court-ordered medications



#### Forensic Services

- Free competency screenings and re-evaluations
- Expedited admission considerations
- Maximum Security Unit waiver re-reviews
- Alternate disposition considerations



#### Legal Education

- Legal/statutory requirements
- Court-ordered medication process
- Alternate dispositions



#### Planning Support

- Strengthening and engaging county forensic teams and stakeholders
- Engagement in behavioral health and justice systems planning

- Be part of a peer-to-peer learning collaborative and network with behavioral health and justice system professionals from across Texas.
- Learn about the *Eliminate the Wait* toolkit to identify strategies for reducing the wait for inpatient competency restoration services.
- Build strong local cross-system forensic teams.
- Implement techniques for monitoring individuals on the waitlist with 46B commitments in county jails.

## Why?

The competency to stand trial process is designed to protect the rights of persons who do not understand the charges against them and are unable to assist in their own defense. Through the JIRLC, HHSC works collaboratively with partners across the continuum of care to improve outcomes for people waiting in county jails for inpatient competency restoration services after being declared incompetent to stand trial (IST).

## How?

- Four two-hour long virtual weekly training sessions.
- Seven 90-minute technical assistance calls featuring expert speakers from across Texas and the country.
- Ongoing one-on-one support to enhance collaboration and coordination with local behavioral health and justice system stakeholders.

## Testimonials

*As a team, we learned how to advance our communication which has led to more efficiencies and a much more effective system overall in dealing with defendants who are incompetent to stand trial (IST). We were able to establish better lines of communication between our stakeholders, the first point of contact at the jail, the jail medical staff, our mental health caseworkers, and our courts, as well as bridging the communication with our LMHA. As a result, our overall approach has improved in developing and making a more cohesive, streamlined approach when making decisions regarding our mental health population who are IST.*

- Judge DePew, Court at Law No.3  
Bell County

*I found the JIRLC curriculum to be an excellent process to learn and build on. You learn overarching principles and get access to the state experts. You will learn how to figure out who's sick, treat them early, staff them weekly, compel meds if needed, and reassess. One step at a time, one patient at a time.*

- Trina Bivens, MD, Psychiatrist, Collin County Detention Center

*It's been invigorating to connect with like-minded individuals and reinforce the message that no one is alone in this. Our collective efforts have brought a wealth of resources to the table, ensuring comprehensive support for all participants.*

- Shawn Edwards, Sergeant, Burleson County Sheriff's Office

**For more information, contact [jailinreach@hhs.texas.gov](mailto:jailinreach@hhs.texas.gov).**



EL PASO  
**Behavioral Health**  
CONSORTIUM



OF THE EL PASO BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CONSORTIUM



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**Justice**  
**Leadership Council**  
**OF THE EL PASO BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CONSORTIUM**

## JLC September 27th Agenda:

-  I. Welcome
-  II. HHSC Jail In-Reach Programming
-  III. Jail Based Competency Restoration
-  IV. Judicial Commission on Mental Health
-  V. Justice Leadership Coordinating Committee
-  VI. Jail Diversion Committee
-  VII. Reentry
-  VIII. Crisis Response
-  IX. Policy Research Associates Transitional Age SIM Opportunity
-  X. Other Business





**Justice**  
**Leadership Council**  
**OF THE EL PASO BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CONSORTIUM**

# Justice Leadership Council

OF THE EL PASO BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CONSORTIUM



Justice Leadership Council  
Sheriff Wiles Chair  
Chrystal Davis Vice Chair

**PASO del NORTE CENTER**  
Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute

Facilitator/Technical Support

Jail Diversion Committee  
SIM Intercepts 0,1,2

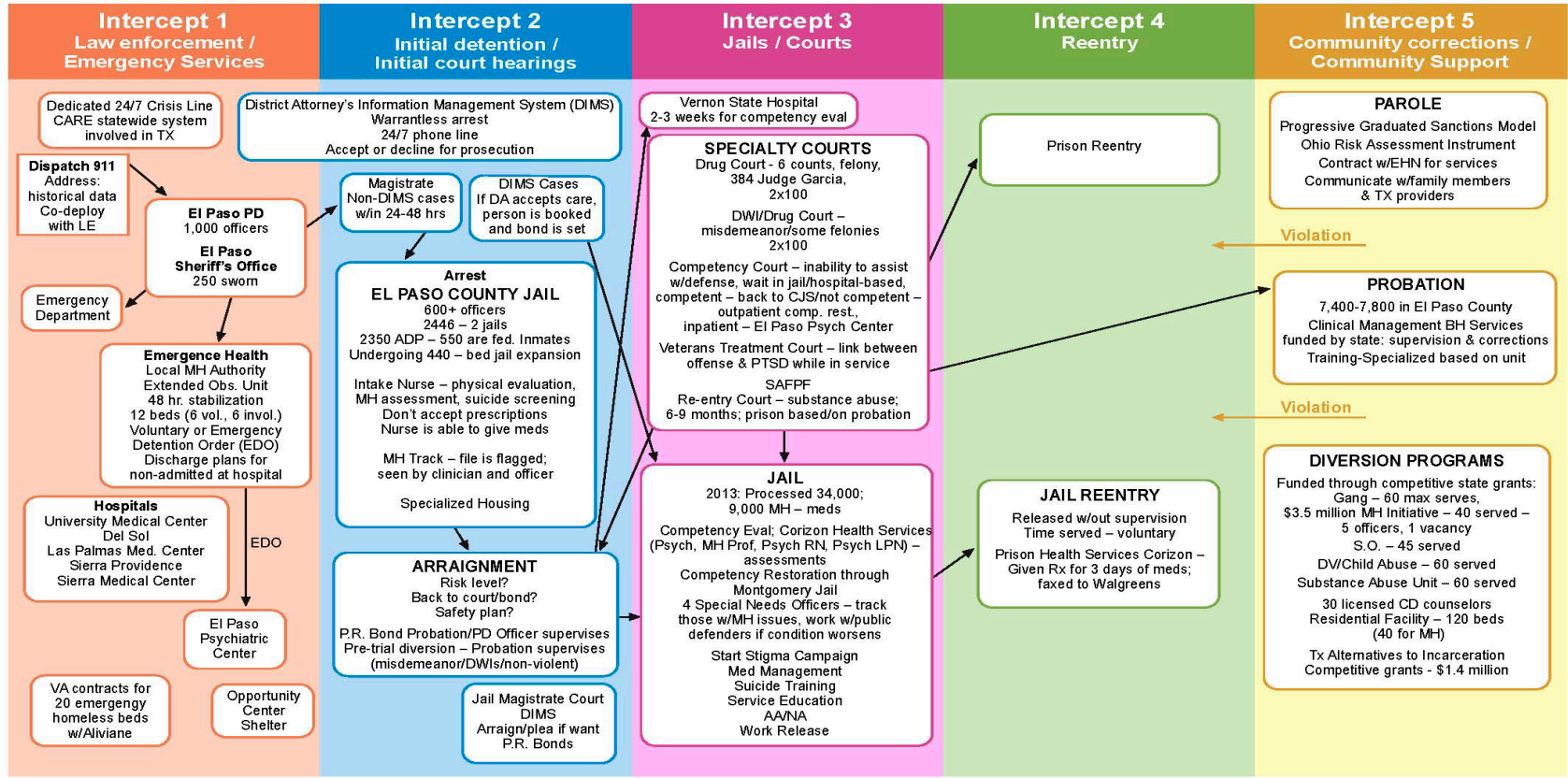


Justice Leadership Coordinating Committee

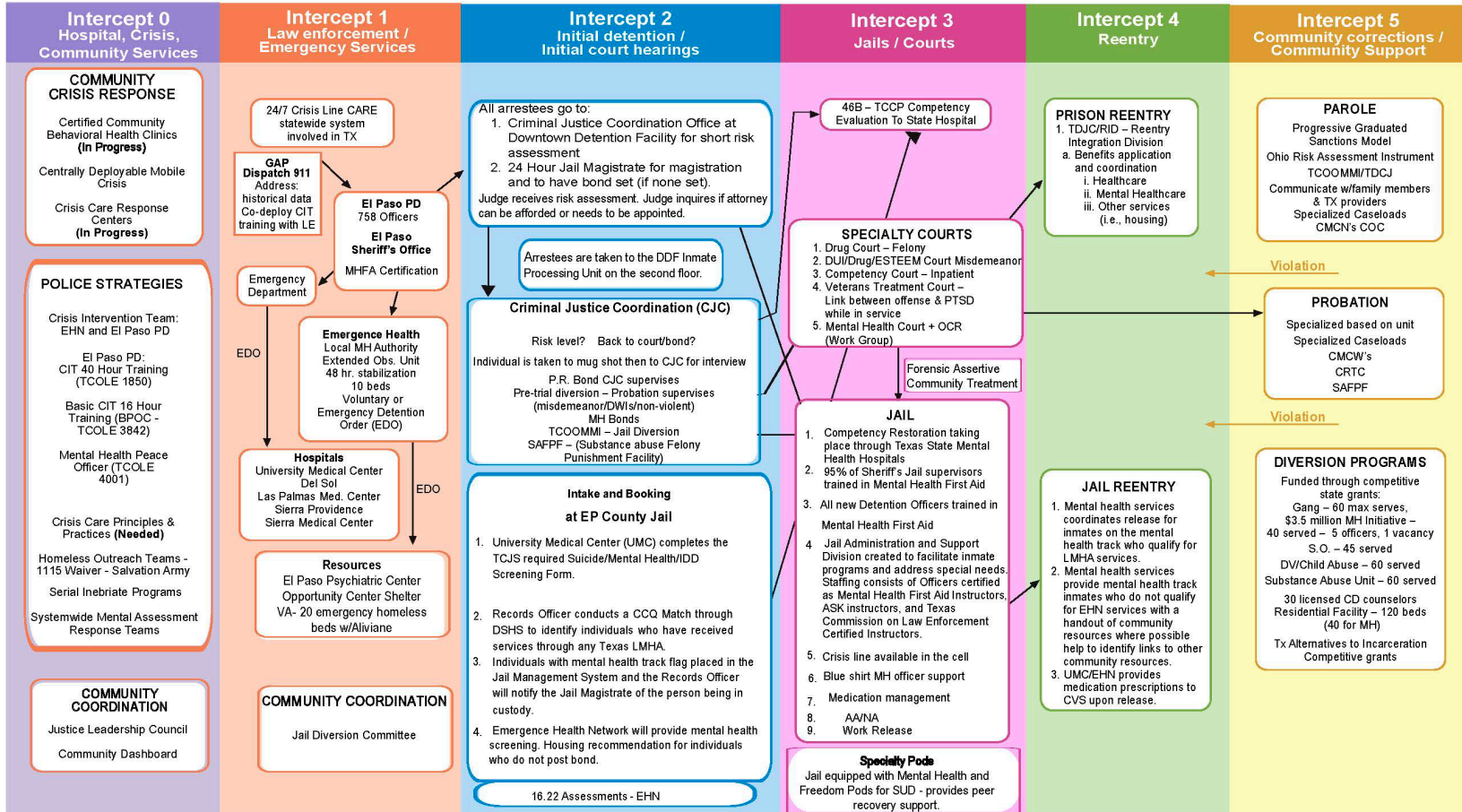


Reentry Task Force (BJA)  
SIM Intercepts 3,4,5

# September 2014 El Paso County, TX Sequential Intercept Map



# 2019 El Paso County, TX Sequential Intercept Map



# SHM UPDATE 2022

**Intercept 0**  
Community Services

- **COMMUNITY CRISIS RESPONSE**
  - Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic - 1 active EHN Clinic
  - Centrally Deployable Mobile Crisis
- Crisis Care Response Centers (*In Progress*)
- **POLICE STRATEGIES**
  - Crisis Intervention Team: EHN and El Paso PD - 14 Units
  - CIT Expansion
    - El Paso County Sheriff - 3 Units
    - City of Socorro - 2 units
  - Exploring use of tablets for Mental Health provider virtual access on site
- El Paso PD: CIT 40 Hour Training (TCOLE 1850)
- Basic CIT 16 Hour Training (BPOC - TCOLE 3842)
- Mental Health Peace Officer (TCOLE 4001)
- Crisis Care Principles & Practices (*Needed*)
- Homeless Outreach Teams
  - Serial Inebriate Programs
  - Systemwide Mental Assessment Response Teams
  - Cohen/Endeavors Veterans Wellness Center
  - Substance use drop in (Punto de Partida)
  - project chance
- **COMMUNITY COORDINATION**
  - Justice Leadership Council
  - Community Dashboard

**Intercept 1**  
Law Enforcement and Emergency Services

- 24/7 Crisis Line CARE statewide system involved in Conversion to 988 System and processes
- Dispatch 911 - Explore refined dispatch with mental health professional consults
- **El Paso PD**
  - 1024 Officers
- **El Paso Sheriff's Office**
  - 240 Deputies
  - MHFA Certification
- **EMERGENCE HEALTH NETWORK - LOCAL MENTAL HEALTH AUTHORITY**
  - Extended Obs. Unit
    - 48 hr. stabilization
    - 10 beds
    - Voluntary or Emergency Detention Order (EDO) Explore expanded availability of full service or medical clearance
- **HOSPITALS**
  - University Medical Center Del Sol
  - Las Palmas Med. Center
  - Sierra Providence Sierra Medical Center
- **RESOURCES**
  - El Paso Psychiatric Cntr.
  - Opportunity Center Shelter
  - VA- 20 emergency homeless beds w/Aliviane
  - Mobile Integrated Healthcare (MIH)
- **COMMUNITY COORDINATION**
  - Jail Diversion Committee
  - Re-Entry Taskforce

**Intercept 2**  
Initial Detention and Initial Court Hearings

- **ALL ARRESTEES GO TO:**
  - Criminal Justice Coordination Office at Downtown Detention Facility for short risk assessment
  - 24 Hour Jail Magistrate for magistration and to have bond set (if none set).
  - Judge receives risk assessment. Judge inquires if attorney can be afforded or needs to be appointed.
  - Arrestees are taken to the DDF Inmate Processing Unit on the second floor.
- **CRIMINAL JUSTICE COORDINATION (CJC)**
  - Risk level? Back to court/bond?
  - Individual is taken to mug shot then to CJC for interview
  - P.R. Bond CJC supervises
  - Pre-trial diversion - Probation supervises (misdemeanor/DWIs/non-violent)
  - MH Bonds
  - TCOOMMI - Jail Diversion
  - SAFFP - (Substance abuse Felony Punishment Facility)
- **INTAKE & BOOKING AT EP COUNTY JAIL**
  - University Medical Center (UMC) completes the TCJS required Suicide/Mental Health/IDD Screening Form.
  - Records Officer conducts a CQ Match through DSHS to identify individuals who have received services through any Texas LMHA.
  - Individuals with mental health track flag placed in the Jail Management System and the Records Officer will notify the Jail Magistrate of the person being in custody.
  - Emergence Health Network will provide mental health screening. Housing recommendation for individuals who do not post bond.

**Intercept 3**  
Jails and Courts

- **46B - TCCP COMPETENCY EVALUATION TO STATE HOSPITAL**
- **SPECIALTY COURTS**
  - Drug Court - Felony
  - DUI/Drug/ESTEEM Court Misdemeanor
  - Competency Court - Inpatient
  - Veterans Treatment Court - Link between offense & PTSD while in service
  - Mental Health Court + OCR (Work Group)
- **FORENSIC ASSERTIVE COMMUNITY TREATMENT**
- **ASSISTED OUTPATIENT TREATMENT (AOT) Service for 50 INDIVIDUALS**
- **JAIL**
  - Competency Restoration taking place through Texas State Mental Health Hospitals
  - Competency Waitlist(160)
    - 112: Non-Max Security
    - 54: MaxSecurity
    - 95% of Sheriff's Jail supervisors trained in Mental Health First Aid
  - All new Detention Officers trained in Mental Health First Aid
  - Jail Administration and Support Division created to facilitate inmate programs and address special needs. Staffing consists of Officers certified as Mental Health First Aid Instructors, ASK Instructors, and Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Certified Instructors.
  - Crisis line available in the cell
  - Blue shirt MH officer support
  - Medication management
  - AA/NA
  - Work Release
- **SPECIALTY PODS**
  - Jail equipped with Mental Health and Freedom Pods for SUD - provides peer recovery support.

**Intercept 4**  
Reentry

- **PRISON REENTRY**
  - DJC/RID - Reentry Integration Division
  - Benefits application and coordination
    - i. Healthcare
    - ii. Mental Healthcare
    - iii. Other services (i.e., housing)
- **JAIL REENTRY**
  - Mental health services coordinates release for inmates on the mental health track who qualify for LMHA services.
  - Mental health services provide mental health track inmates who do not qualify for EHN services with a handout of community resources where possible help to identify links to other community resources.
  - UMC/EHN provides medication prescriptions to CVS upon release.
- **COMMUNITY COORDINATION**
  - Re-Entry Transitional Living and Support Center (EP County - near Jail Annex)
  - Medication-assisted treatment (MAT) EHN

**Intercept 5**  
Community Corrections and Community Support

- **PAROLE**
  - Progressive Graduated Sanctions Model
  - Ohio Risk Assessment Instrument
  - Contract w/EHN for services
  - Communicate w/family members & TX providers
- **PROBATION**
  - 7,400-7,800 in El Paso County
  - Clinical Management BH Services funded by state: supervision & corrections
  - Training-Specialized based on unit
- **DIVERSION PROGRAMS**
  - Funded through competitive state grants: \$3.5 million MH Initiative
  - S.O. - 45 served
  - DV/Child Abuse - 60 served
  - Substance Abuse Unit - 60 served
  - 30 licensed CD counselors Residential Facility - 120 beds (40 for MH)
  - Tx Alternatives to Incarceration Competitive grants

# Preventing Isolation and Promoting Social Connection

“isolation and silos weaken our communities; without strong communities, we cannot pull together in times of hardship and our diversity turns from a source of strength to a source of conflict. **When we have strong connections with each other everything is possible”.**

- U.S. Surgeon General Dr. Vivek Murthy