



**Specialty Care Work Group Meeting Notes  
July 23, 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**

**Sign in Sheet Missing**

**Welcome and Introductions**

Josue Lachica and Enrique Mata welcomed the group and called for introductions.

**Revisiting the idea of an RTC model for the El Paso area**

The group began the discussion with reflections from previous meetings where Juvenile Justice Center representatives shared comments that at times, kids are in the juvenile justice system just to access the intensive services they need. The Challenge Academy is the only residential treatment option in El Paso. It is quite unfortunate that kids must be criminalized to get the services they need. The situations with parental support are complex and the times when child protective services are a managing conservator create significant difficulties with safe placement for these youth due to situations of physical abuse, sexual abuse, or other trauma.

The group commented that crisis respite services continue to be a vital gap that needs addressing. The "Transforming Juvenile Probation" initiative that Annie E Casey is supporting provided some recommendations that the El Paso JPD is exploring. Sending youth to residential facilities out of the community is not a solution, but sadly is the result in complicated cases. Comments during the discussion emphasized that not only is the disconnection from their support systems (e.g. kin or familiar connections), but it also takes kids out the community supports and school structures creating unknown levels of trauma.

**Current wraparound support outside of MST**

The group discussed the increasing capacity and improving school integration of community-based behavioral health/SUD services with new grant support and program capacity from nonprofits such as Aliviane, EP Child Guidance and Emergence Health Network . There is still a need for options other than just the Multi Systemic Therapy program. The group discussed optimal wraparound support. The Nurse Family Partnership model was cited. Can a similar model with the intensive support like Nurse Family Partnership be implemented to assist/reach youth where they are. Are there peer support models for youth with addiction or cooccurring conditions?

The school-based outlier program was discussed. Getting students to services is a challenge. The process of referral is slow. EHN can be seeing so many more kids, but TEA is placing more conditions than is necessary for the students that need these services to gain access. EHN has a new grant to provide in a more comprehensive manner. The group discussed ways to engage school age youth champions through SHAC meetings, Superintendent meetings, school surveys, etc.

### **Improving trauma and grief service options**

The group discussed the new programming being funded by SAMHSA and the trauma and grief trainings and service options that may be developing through El Paso Child Guidance Center and the El Paso Children's Grief Center. Key school staff and teachers would benefit from trainings and knowledge surrounding timely referral options.

### **Adjourn**

Enrique Mata and Josue Lachica adjourned the meeting at 10:29 am. Presentation slides are included with these notes.



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

# Specialty Care July 23, 2024 Agenda:

-  **Welcome and Introductions**
-  **Revisiting the idea of an RTC model for the El Paso area**
-  **Current wraparound support outside of MST**
  -  **Increasing capacity and improving school integration of community-based behavioral health/SUD services**
-  **Improving trauma and grief service options**
-  **Other Business**
-  **Adjourn**

# Specialty Care Work Group

## Work Group Charges:

- **Revisit the idea of an RTC for El Paso area. Explore numbers of youth in justice that would benefit from an RTC model as opposed to justice involvement**
- **Expand and enhance wraparound options with other similar models**

## Youth SIM Merge:

**Specialty Care:** Reframe the concept of mental health and substance use specialty care as secondary to Integrated Primary Care (e.g., 25% of care).

## Youth SIM:

- **First Offender and Pre-Arrest Diversion Program**
- **Discipline Alternatives and Disciplinary Alternative Education Programs (DAEP)**
- **Community-Based Behavioral Health/SUD Service Capacity and School Integration**

# Specialty Care

- **Leveraging THC Prevention models** and learning experiences from Williamson County and [Judge Steve Teske's national School-Justice Partnership model](#), First Offender and Pre-Arrest Diversion Programs - this is in complement with Smoke Free efforts.
- **Increasing capacity and improving school integration of community-based behavioral health/SUD services** – These are efforts to improve complex co-occurring addiction and mental health needs in youth (e.g., increasing availability of Multi-Systemic Therapy and other wraparound programs).
- **Revisiting the idea of an RTC model for the El Paso area** – This is in complement with the State Hospital efforts to address children and youth mental health needs (e.g., exploring a hybrid model for crisis respite and residential treatment).
- **Improving trauma and grief service options** – Working with PdN Center of Hope, Child Guidance, Aliviane, and El Paso Children's Grief Center to bring greater access to services for youth who have experienced complex trauma (this is different from what the First Connection Work Group is working on which is more upstream coordination of care when adverse childhood experiences are identified in the primary care setting).

# Specialty Care

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# Open Discussion



# Other Business



 **NEXT MEETING**

 **Adjourn**