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Consortium Community Behavioral Health General Meeting

The El Paso Behavioral Health Consortium will bring together behavioral health stakeholders, health professionals, civic and business leaders, and public officials for a special year-end general meeting. Keynote speaker Nelson Jarrin, JD, Senior Vice President of State Policy for the Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute, will share information on the upcoming Texas 89th Legislative Session. The event also provides an opportunity to recognize the efforts of local organizations and agencies working together to improve community mental health and substance use service and support systems. This public event will be held on:

Friday, December 6, 2024
8:30 am - 11:30 am
at
The Starlight Event Center at
Region 19 Education Services Center
6650 Continental Drive
El Paso, Texas 79925

The El Paso Behavioral Health Consortium engages stakeholders and existing community action groups through its Leadership Councils (Family Leadership Council, Justice Leadership Council, and Integration Leadership Council) for data-informed, coordinated efforts to address service gaps, improve continuity and access to care where and when it is needed.

“El Paso leaders and stakeholders have never been more invested in preventing mental health crises by improving the availability of education, workforce, and treatment options to support individuals and families,” said Tracy Yellen, CEO of Paso del Norte Health Foundation/Paso del Norte Community Foundation, and Chair of the El Paso Behavioral Health Consortium. “It is impressive and inspiring to see how much El Paso’s Consortium partners have done through united, data-informed, collaboration. With our strong united voice, the El Paso community will continue to make lasting improvements for timely access to care where and when it is needed.”

The December meeting focuses on policy opportunities both in Texas as the 89th Legislative Session begins, and with National policy to improve mental health and substance use systems. The event also provides an opportunity to share new data and recognize the hard work of local partners working to improve mental health and emotional well-being support and system options across the County.

“Over the last decade, the Texas Legislature has made a strong, bipartisan commitment to behavioral health, increasing total appropriations by more than \$5 billion and passing key legislation to expand access to evidence-based practices. These efforts have directly impacted the region, including Texas Tech University Health Science Center serving as the hub for the Texas Child Mental Health Care Consortium, Emergence Health Network’s program expansions, and the new El Paso State Hospital. As the next legislative session begins, I expect more wins for El Paso,” said Nelson Jarrin, Senior Vice President of State Policy for the Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute.

To learn more about the El Paso Behavioral Health Consortium, visit <https://healthypasodelnorte.org/>.

The Paso del Norte Health Foundation hosts this event as part of its leadership efforts to improve the health and quality of life in the Paso del Norte region.

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*The **Paso del Norte Health Foundation** (Health Foundation) leads, leverages, and invests in initiatives, programs, and policies to promote health and prevent disease in the Paso del Norte region. The Health Foundation was established in 1995 from the sale of Providence Memorial Hospital to Tenet Healthcare Corporation. The Health Foundation seeks to ensure that the people living in far west Texas, southern New Mexico, and Ciudad Juárez, Mexico, have the knowledge, resources, and skills to lead healthy lives. The Paso del Norte Health Foundation is a supporting organization of the Paso del Norte Community Foundation. For more information, visit www.pdnhf.org.*

***About Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute** (Meadows Institute) Independent and nonpartisan, the Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute works at the intersection of policy and programs to create equitable systemic changes so all people in Texas, the nation, and the world can obtain the health care they need. The Meadows Institute provides state and national leaders with data-driven, trusted policy and program guidance, and works to shift the focus of new investments toward early intervention for children and families, address the mental health crisis in our jails and emergency rooms, and help all people with mental health needs recover and be well. Learn more at <https://mmhpi.org>.*