



Meeting Notes
January 21, 2025
8:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

Paso del Norte Health Foundation
221 N. Kansas, 19th Floor
El Paso, Texas 79901
Meeting Room C

Attendees:

Erika Alcala
Adela Alonso
Linda Corchado
David Cotchery
Sandra Day
Adrian Duran
Elisa Garcia
Daniely Gutierrez
Emily Hartmann
Cynthia Henry
Cindy Hernandez
Surya Kayra
Jesus Komiyama
Josue Lachica
Ron Long
Ismael Lopez
Victoria Lopez-Unzueta
Enrique Mata
Amanda Mathis- Ozer
Ivonne Marquez
Laura Marquez
Claudia Munoz
Doris Ogribene
Mida Ponce

Representing:

Children At Risk
City of El Paso
Children At Risk - Virtual
American G.I. Forum
Paso del Norte Health Foundation
El Paso Center for Children
El Paso Psychiatric Center
Region 19 ESC - Virtual
Paso del Norte Health Information Exchange (PHIX)
Paso del Norte Center of Hope
Emergence Health Network
EPISO – Border Interfaith
Emergence Health Network
Paso del Norte Center at Meadows Institute
Strong Families Family Advisory Council - Virtual
Endeavors - El Paso
United Way of El Paso
Paso del Norte Center at Meadows Institute
EPISO – Border Interfaith
City of El Paso Department of Public Health
Paso del Norte Children’s Development Center - Virtual
Child Protective Services – Texas DFPS
Emergence Health Network
Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)

Kathy Revtyak	El Paso Children’s Grief Center
Andrea Ríos	El Paso Child Guidance Center
Rhonda Russ	Emergence Health Network
Nicole Schiff	Paso del Norte Center of Hope
Dr. Emily Steussy	El Paso Independent School District - Virtual
Ivonne Tapia	Aliviane Inc./Chair Family Leadership Council - Virtual
Wes Temple	Region 19 ESC – Virtual
Luis Trejo	Texas Division of Emergency Management
Daniela Vargas	El Paso County Commissioner Stout – Pct. 2

Welcome and Introductions

Ivonne Tapia convened the meeting at 8:35 a.m. and called for introductions.

New Foster Care Work Group – Josue Lachica and Enrique Mata provided a brief report on behalf of Ms. Vanessa Leon. The Heart Gallery of El Paso will lead a new work group that is aligned with their overarching mission and objectives. In some recent meetings it was determined that the organization’s efforts align well with the Family Leadership Council goals. This new group would seek to expand and enhance efforts for foster care and post adoption populations. The group will start with several stakeholders and expand as needed. Nicole Schiff commented that while the Specialty Care work group is connected to this population, its current efforts will complement the new Foster Care work group but will be more focused on the Respite/Residential Treatment gaps in our community.

Strong Families –Ronsoni Long, Chair of the Strong Families Family Advisory Committee provided updates on the activity under the **Fatherhood EFFECTS program** and the **FAC Parent/Youth Voice** efforts including plans for 2025 actions.

First Connection – Ms. Laura Marquez advised that April Corral with Texas Tech HSC El Paso will take on a role as Vice Chair of the First Connection work group when Dr Sarah Martin is not available. She commented that a meeting is being planned for early February. She responded to questions from the group.

Specialty Care – Ms. Nicole Schiff summarized 2025 plans to focus on the priority gap to develop a hybrid **Respite and Residential Treatment option** that could be sustained using braided funding from multiple sources and would complement the existing child serving programs in the community. She reinforced that the group will meet in the next few weeks to review models from around the state that prevent youth from being sent out of the region for care and separating from family and other supports in the community. The [Uvalde respite model](#) (page 85) along with the Houston, Bexar County and Dallas County models will be discussed.

West Texas Trauma Informed Care Consortium (WTTICC) – Ivonne Tapia provided an overview of the WTTICC history and its focus on trauma and grief. She explained that the WTTICC will reconvene in March to review its purpose and goals and restart the Consortium. Anyone interested in joining the WTTICC should contact Cathy Gaytan at cgaytan@epcgc.org .

Other Business –

- Ismael Lopez commented that Endeavors is moving forward with development of their new center. It is likely the facility will be opening this fall. For more information contact Ismael at: llopez@endeavors.org .
- Ivonne Tapia advised of the [Recovery Day at the Capitol on February 25th](#) and invited everyone to join Aliviane and others in Austin. See below for additional information on the event. There are other groups hosting advocacy days at the capital, as well. For example, [Texans for Safe and Drug Free Youth](#) are hosting an Advocacy Day 2025.
- Adela Alonso reported that the City of El Paso will be launching a needs assessment beginning with a survey then a series of community meetings. More information to follow. To learn more contact Adela at: AlonsoA@elpasotexas.gov
- Nicole Schiff announced that the Paso del Norte Center of Hope is offering trainings for human trafficking prevention. She commented that everyone should be aware about the challenges we face in our community with human trafficking. She explains that there are even parents who are trafficking their children. Anyone who is interested hosting a training or learning more about human trafficking prevention, please contact her at: 915-307-2175 or nicole@pdncoh.org -For more information click here: [Human Trafficking | United States | Paso Del Norte Center of Hope](#)
- Sandra Day commented that the Paso del Norte Health Foundation is targeting the week of March 4th to release an open call for Letters of Intent to fund programs under the Mental Health and Emotional Well-Being health arena. Anyone who would like information on the application process can contact her at sdlay@pdnfoundation.org or Enrique Mata at emata@mmhpi.org or Josue Lachica at jlachica@mmhpi.org .
- Enrique Mata commented that the 89th Texas Legislative Session is underway. A recent update email was sent with links to some of the statewide organizations that post bill tracking information related to mental health and substance use. The Paso del Norte Center will work to keep sending updates as the session continues. He asked that anyone who is not receiving these updates to please let him or Josue Lachica know so that the contact list can be updated.
- Josue Lachica and Ivonne Tapia announced that the annual [Texas Substance Use Symposium](#) will be held in El Paso on February 27th and 28th. The event is free and the

agenda includes presenters from El Paso County organizations and the Meadows Institute among others.

Adjourn – Ivonne Tapia Adjourned the meeting at 09:35 am



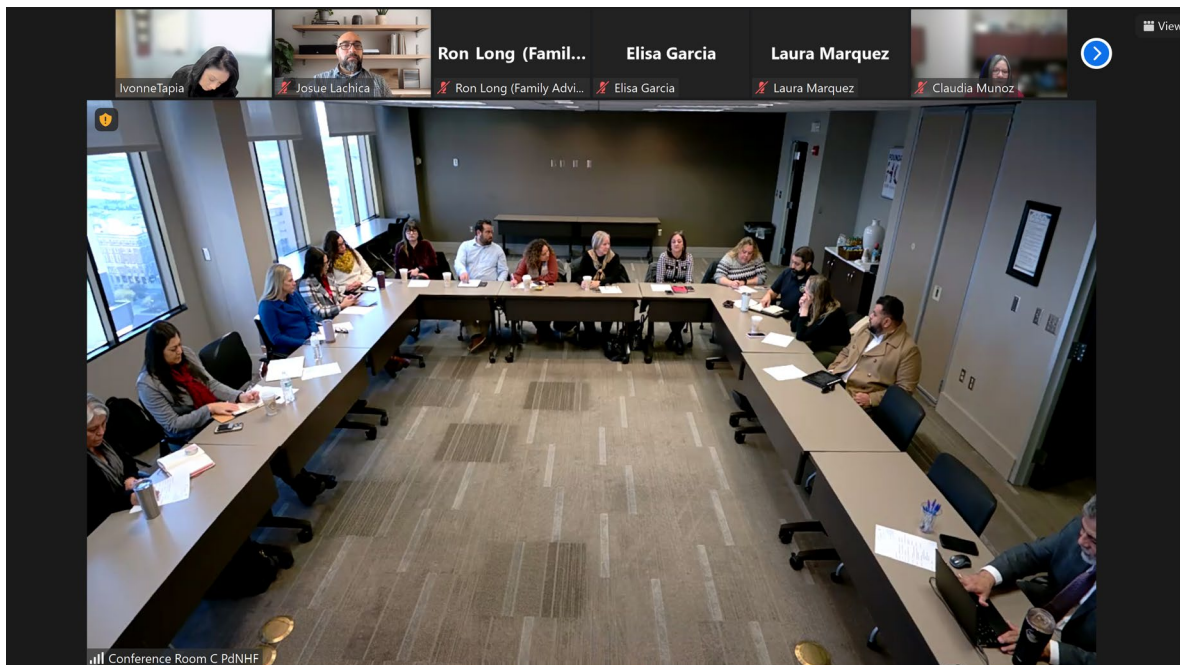
The West Texas Trauma Informed Consortium, is a hub for trauma- and grief-informed care in the western region of Texas that disseminates best practice knowledge and skills, training, consultation, technical assistance, and opportunities for professional and systems collaboration.



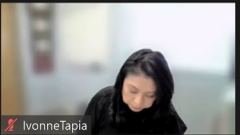


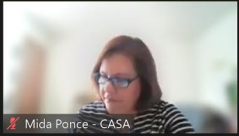



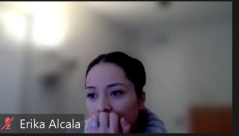



LOGO DESCRIPTION

Hummingbirds are an important and symbolic bird in our region. They symbolize life and rebirth.

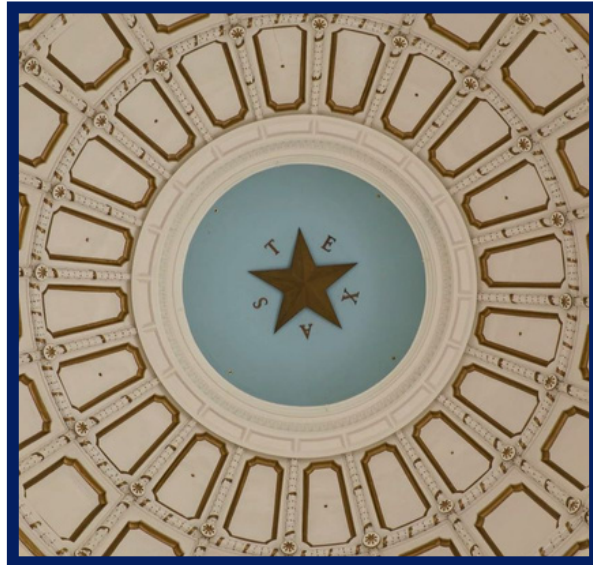
The logo uses different colors to show the movement of the bird to reflect how West Texas Trauma Informed Care Consortium continues to move forward to help children and families suffering from trauma-related issues. It also symbolizes the benefits of treatment children and families get from the services provided by West Texas Trauma Informed Care Consortium.

- The orange and yellow in the wings symbolize who the community is coming together to help children and families suffering from trauma-related issues. Both colors represent the poppies that have become a symbol of our community.
- Yellow also represents joy and happiness, while orange represents health and regeneration.
- The solo pink wing symbolizes the community coming together as one to work for our fellow community members



 <p>Josue Lathica</p>	 <p>Claudia Munoz</p>	 <p>Ivonne Tapia</p>	 <p>Conference Room C PdNHF</p>	 <p>Emily Stuessy</p>
 <p>Mida Ponce - CASA</p>	 <p>Adela Alonso, City of El Paso</p>	 <p>Wes Temple Region 19 ESC</p>	 <p>Linda Corchado, CHILDREN AT RISK</p>	 <p>Erika Alcalá</p>
 <p>Ron Long (Family Advisory Council)</p>	 <p>Daniely Gutierrez ESC Region 19</p>	<p>Surya Kalra</p> <p>Surya Kalra</p>	<p>Elisa Garcia</p> <p>Elisa Garcia</p>	<p>Adrian</p> <p>Adrian</p>
	<p>Laura Marquez</p> <p>Laura Marquez</p>	<p>Trina DeMaria/...</p> <p>Trina DeMaria/ Action For Healthy Ki...</p>		<p>19156038045</p>

RECOVERY DAY AT THE CAPITOL



February 25, 2025

**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Family Life Center
1300 Lavaca St, Austin, TX 78701**

**Kick off, general info and bill briefings at 8:00 AM,
followed by visits with legislators' offices at the Capitol**

To register and for more
information, visit:

**[https://recoverypeople.org/
advocates/recovery-day-at-
the-capitol/](https://recoverypeople.org/advocates/recovery-day-at-the-capitol/)**

Or use QR code:

