



## Meeting Notes

**Tuesday, February 11, 2024**  
**4:00-5:00 pm**  
**Paso del Norte Health Foundation**  
**221 N. Kansas, Meeting Room C**

### **Welcome and Introductions:**

Maria Carrillo convened the meeting at 4:05 pm and called for brief introductions. Organizations represented include El Paso Center for Children, Narcotics Anonymous, El Paso Child Guidance Center, El Paso Children's Grief Center, NAMI El Paso, Paso del Norte Health Foundation, Big Brothers Big Sisters, and Centro de Salud Familiar La Fe.

### **Special Presentations:**

#### **Help Me Grow El Paso**

Laura Marquez, MSW Program Supervisor at the Paso del Norte Children's Development Center shared the progress developing a Help Me Grow model initiative for early childhood interventions to serve children 0-8 years of age and their families. She explained that their program not only provides opportunity for parental learning about myths and facts surrounding early childhood behaviors, but they also provide options for assessment and closed loop referrals to local resources. Ms Marquez responded to questions from the group. Presentation slides are included with these notes.

### **And**

#### **Emergence Health Network's 2024 Annual Report**

Rene Hurtado, MBA, Chief of Staff for Emergence Health Network provided an interactive presentation using Emergence Health Network's annual report website. Mr. Hurtado provided an overview of all the services provided by EHN and showed the group how to find data on the number served and types of services provided. He explained that EHN's annual report is completely online, so no paper versions are available. He encourages anyone with interest in the organization's programs to visit the annual report website at this link:

<https://ehnannualreport.org/>

### **Updates:**

Maria Carrillo called for the group to share community updates. Flyers or other information may be included as part of these notes.

### **Next Meeting:**

**The Brain Trust now has a standing in person meeting time of 4:00 pm on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of every other month.**

**The Next Brain Trust Network meeting is scheduled for 4:00 pm, Tuesday, April 8<sup>th</sup> Location to be determined. For more information contact Enrique Mata at 915-253-0287, [emata@mmhpi.org](mailto:emata@mmhpi.org), or Josue Lachica at [jlachica@mmhpi.org](mailto:jlachica@mmhpi.org).**



**CHILDREN'S**



**Help Me Grow<sup>®</sup>**

**El Paso**



# What is Help Me Grow?

Help Me Grow is a nationally implemented, evidence-based model that supports early identification and resource linkage for children at-risk of experiencing **developmental**, **behavioral**, **medical**, and **educational** concerns.





# Why Help Me Grow?

## Driving Factors in Universal Early Identification Efforts:

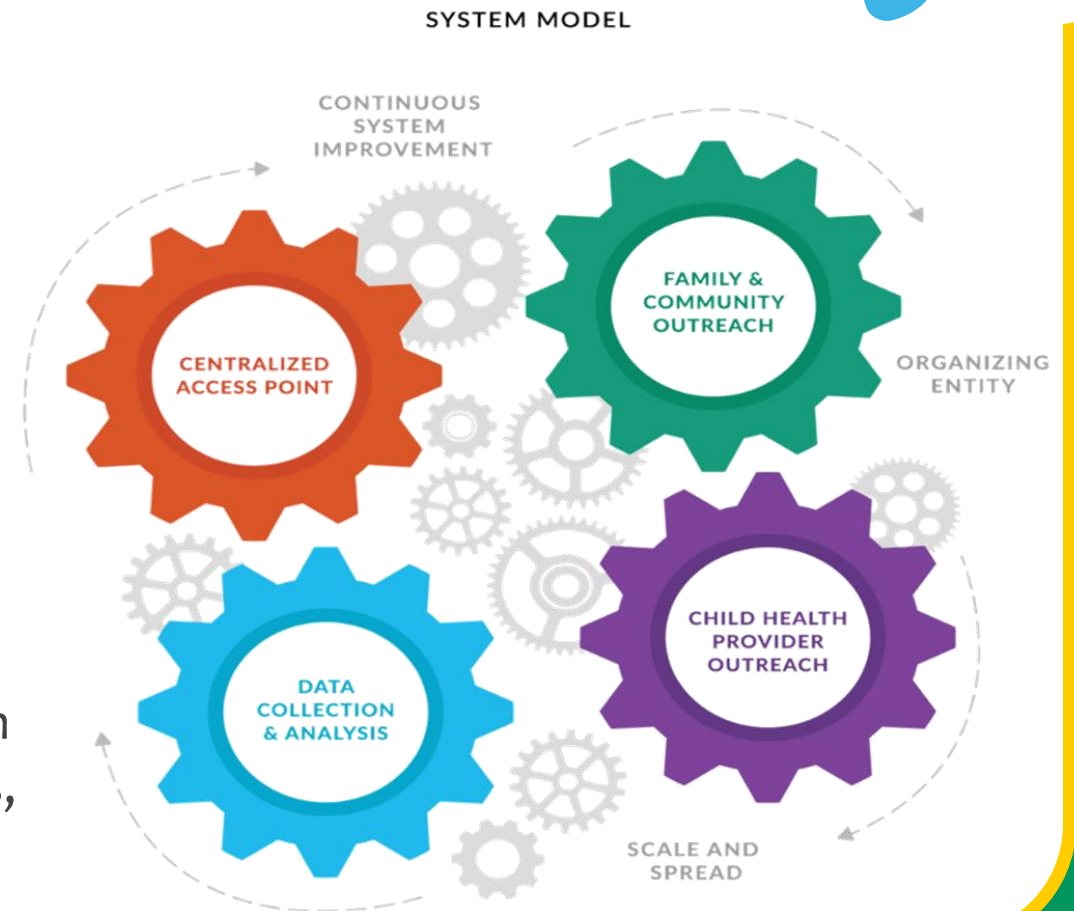
- ✿ Texas is home to **1,113,391** babies\*
- ✿ **80%** of brain development occurs **by age 3** , with **90% occurring by age 5**
- ✿ **1 in 4** children can experience a developmental delay, with **1 in 6** being diagnosed with a disability
- ✿ **80%** of children experiencing developmental and/or behavioral concerns do not receive timely intervention

\*Source: [Stateofbabies.org/state/texas](http://Stateofbabies.org/state/texas)

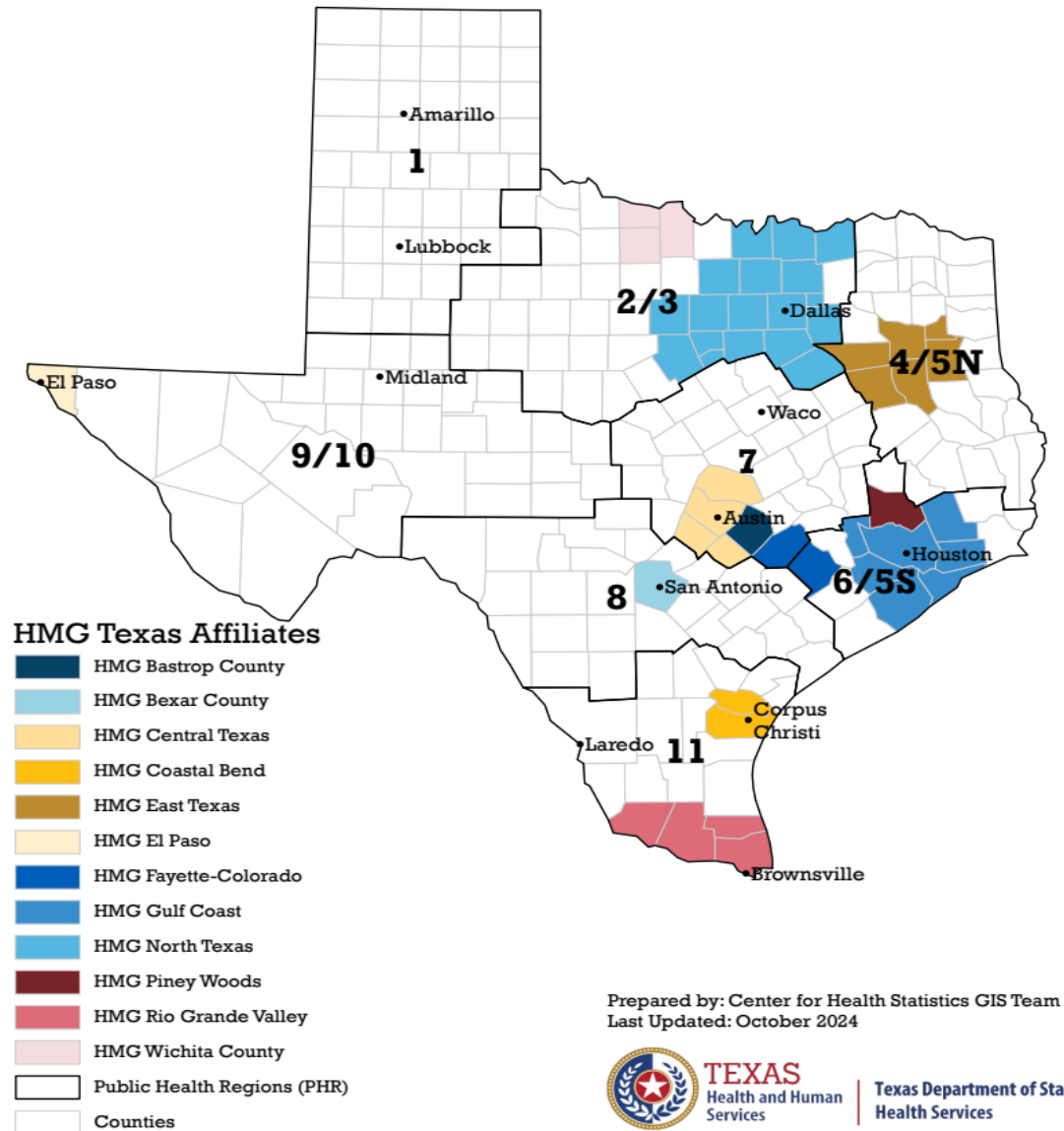
# How does Help Me Grow Work?



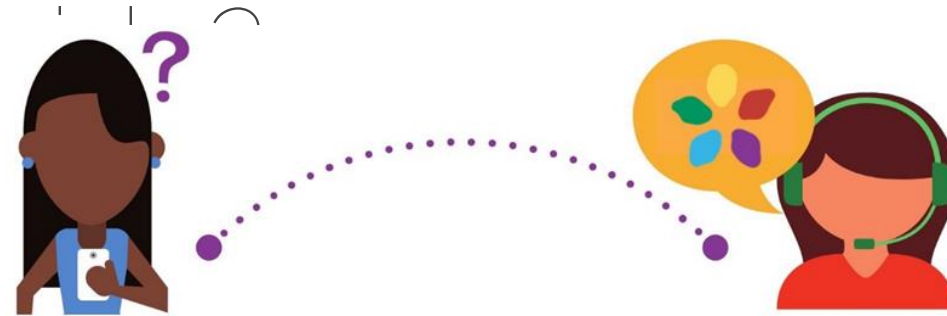
- 🌸 A **Centralized Access Point** connects families with **children 0-8 years old** to resources.
- 🌸 **Family & Community Outreach** keeps families engaged and informed about healthy child development.
- 🌸 **Child Health Care Provider Outreach** supports early detection efforts through training and connection to community resources.
- 🌸 **Data Collection & Analysis** supports evaluation to identify system gaps, drive advocacy efforts, and guide quality improvements.



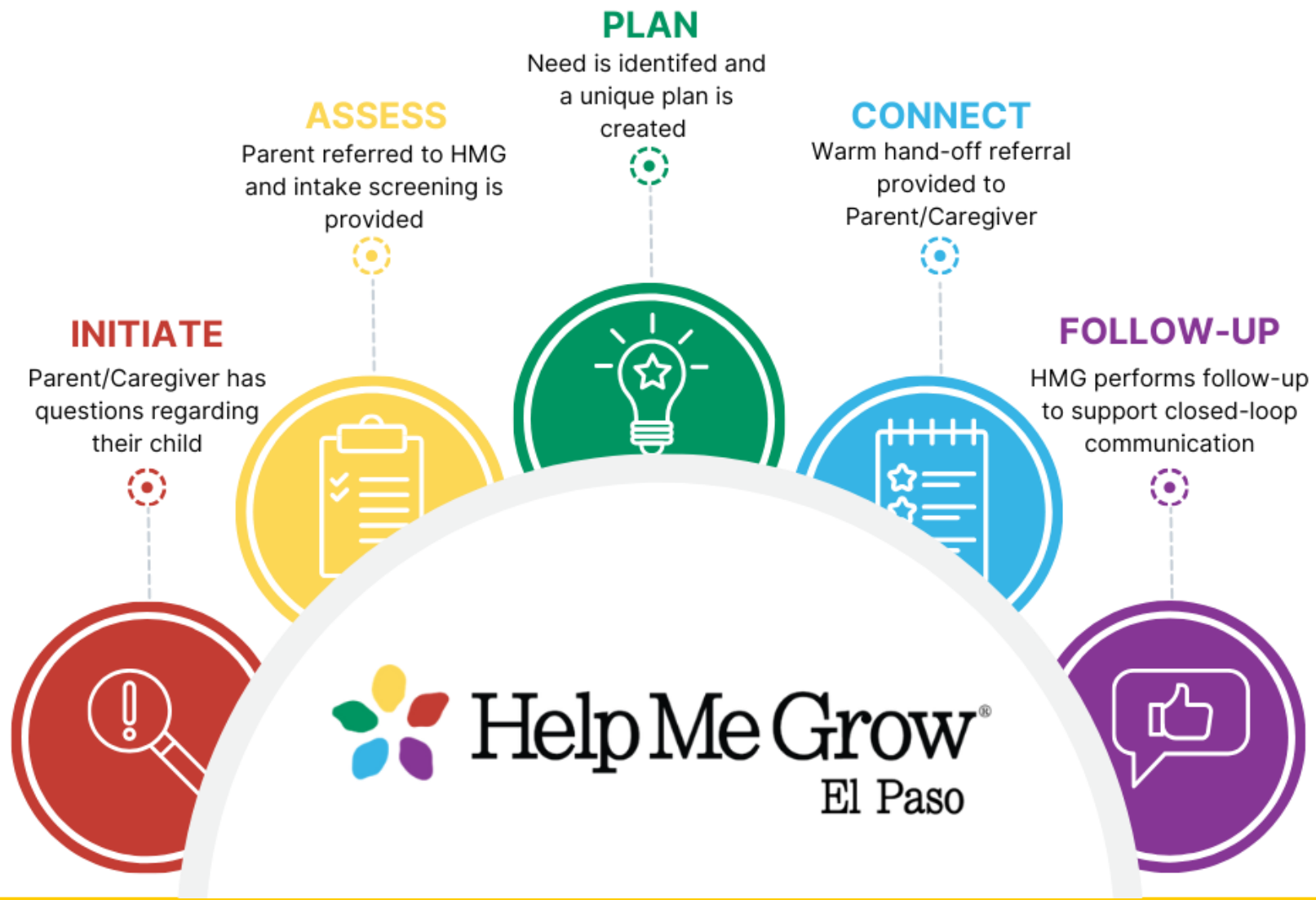
# Help Me Grow Texas



# What services does Help Me Grow provide?



- ✿ **FREE** care coordination to connect stakeholders to resources.
- ✿ **Information** on general child development and parenting topics.
- ✿ **Warm-Handoff Referrals** to community-based supports and services
- ✿ **FREE Developmental Screening** using the Ages & Stages Questionnaire (ASQ-3 & ASQ-SE)
- ✿ **Family & Community Engagement** activities to support awareness around developmental milestones.
- ✿ Up-to-date resources through our FINDConnect **Electronic Resource Directory**.
- ✿ **Free Training & Professional Development** for providers on developmental screening practices.
- ✿ **Closed-loop Feedback** so families and providers stay informed.





# Types of services Help Me Grow can connect families to:



## Early Detection and Intervention for Developmental Delays

- ★ Screening and referral to Early Intervention, HeadStart, preschool programs
- Promotion of early literacy
- Assistance obtaining special education services (e.g., IEPs, 504 plans)

## Diversion from Unnecessary Developmental/Early Intervention Assessments

- ★ Avoided unnecessary developmental/EI assessments

## Parenting Supports/Services

- ★ Support and education for parents to promote positive parenting
- ★ Referral to home visiting programs
- ★ Identification of maternal depression and referral for services
- Ongoing care coordination to build relationships with families to empower them
- Referral to child care/child play groups

## Addressing Social Determinants of Health/Unmet Basic Needs

- ★ Food insecurity
- Housing insecurity/utilities
- Clothing/diapers
- Domestic violence
- Child welfare concerns
- Medical-legal partnership

## Coordination with Primary Care and Other Community-Based Services Providers

- ★ Promotion of earlier uptake of preventive child dental services
- Training and support for pediatricians (e.g., promotion of universal developmental screening)
- Tracking of closed loop referrals to ensure children and families receive the services they need
- Community events to strengthen connections and offer resources

# Connecting Families to HMG



Care Coordination Enrollment Form  
 ✉ : [info.helpmegrow@pdnchildrens.org](mailto:info.helpmegrow@pdnchildrens.org)  
 ☎ : 915-320-4HMG (4464)  
 📠 : 915-496-0751  
**HelpMeGrowElPaso.org**

Help Me Grow El Paso works with families to support healthy child development by:

- Providing free and periodic developmental screenings for children ages 0 to 5
- Addressing questions related to pregnancy, child development, parenting, health, and more
- Connecting families to community-based resources and supports

Please complete the following form to participate in our **FREE** developmental screening and care coordination program.

Child's Name:

Child's Date of Birth:  Child's Sex:

Parent/Guardian Name:

Phone Number:  Email Address:

Street Address:

City:  County:  Zip Code:

Name of Pediatrician or Referring Agency:

Parent/Guardian Signature  Date

By completing this form, you agree to be contacted by a Help Me Grow El Paso Care Coordinator and provided further information on the Ages & Stages Questionnaires® and additional resources. All information provided will be kept confidential.



## Help us help you!

There is no manual when it comes to raising a happy, healthy child — let Help Me Grow El Paso be part of your support network! Fill out the form to get in touch with one of our Care Coordinators today.

**915-320-4HMG (4464)**  
**Email Us**  
**Live Chat (Coming soon!)**

Name (required)  
 First Name  Last Name

Phone (required)

Email (required)

Child's Age (required)

Best Time to Contact (required)

Additional Details/Message



**Help Me Grow**<sup>®</sup>  
El Paso



**915 – 320 – 4HMG (4464)**

**Info.HelpMeGrow@pdnchildrens.org**

**HelpMeGrowElPaso.org**

Scan our QR Code for  
more information!



# QUESTIONS & COMMENTS



**Laura Marquez, MSW**  
**Program Supervisor**

**[Laura.Marquez@pdnchildrens.org](mailto:Laura.Marquez@pdnchildrens.org)**

**Jessica Olague**  
**Community Liaison**

**[Jessica.Olague@pdnchildrens.org](mailto:Jessica.Olague@pdnchildrens.org)**