



Meeting Notes
March 18, 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:

Alfredo Agüero
Sharon Butterworth
Mariana Cardenas
David Chayer
Daniela Chisholm
Sandra Day
Adrian Duran
Catherine Garcia
Cathy Gaytan
Gilda Gil
Cynthia Henry
Cindy Hernandez
Vanessa Leon
Victoria Lopez-Unzueta
Enrique Mata
Amanda Mathis- Ozer
Rosie Medina
Doris Ogribene
Dr. Carmen Olivas-Graham
Mida Ponce
Kathy Revtyak
Lisa Saucedo
Nicole Schiff

Representing:

Time Done
PdN Center at Meadows Institute
El Paso Child Guidance Center
Family Services of El Paso
El Paso County Attorney's Office
Paso del Norte Health Foundation
El Paso Center for Children
El Paso County Juvenile Probation Department
El Paso Child Guidance Center
Paso del Norte Children's Development Center
Paso del Norte Center of Hope
Emergence Health Network
Heart Gallery of El Paso
United Way of El Paso
Paso del Norte Center at Meadows Institute
EPISO – Border Interfaith
El Paso County Chief of Juvenile Probation
Emergence Health Network
Socorro Independent School District
Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)
El Paso Children's Grief Center
Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)
Paso del Norte Center of Hope

Dr. Emily Steussy
Isidro Torres
Daniela Vargas
Krista Wingate

El Paso Independent School District
NAMI El Paso
El Paso County Commissioner Stout – Pct. 2
Emergence Health Network

Welcome and Introductions

Cathy Gaytan convened the meeting at 8:35 a.m. and called for introductions.

West Texas Trauma Informed Care Consortium – Cathy Gaytan provided an update on the WTTICC next steps to strengthen and expand trauma informed training efforts. She explained that the El Paso Child Guidance Center will be offering trainings and asked for anyone who is interested in joining the WTTICC to contact Cathy Gaytan at cgaytan@epcgc.org.

El Paso Child Guidance Center’s Early Childhood Services – Ms. Mariana Cardenas provided an overview of the numerous programs that the EPCGC provides at their two locations. She responded to questions from the group. Presentation slides are included with these notes.

PdN Children’s Partnership with Baylor College of Medicine - Dr. Camille Maldonado-Rivera provided a virtual presentation on the efforts of Paso del Norte Children’s Development Center to bring access to genetic testing to the region. The testing opportunities are part of a national collaborative research project and may provide opportunity for children in El Paso to connect with more accurate and precise treatment options based on their acceptance to be part of the testing program. Dr. Maldonado responded to questions from the group. Presentation slides are included with these notes.

First Connection – Ms. April Corral with Texas Tech HSC El Paso, Vice Chair of the First Connection work group shared details and learning experiences from the first event related to the First Connection Work Group’s efforts to make a first connection with mental health services a positive one. She explained that Dr. Roshni Koli and Nicole Portrude from Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute were in town on [February 27th for an educational question and answer session](#) with some key community primary care providers and billing staff to help improve opportunities for Collaborative Care implementation in primary care settings. These efforts were in collaboration with Dr Sarah Martin and her team, and PdN Children’s Help Me Grow program team members. She responded to questions from the group.

Specialty Care – Ms. Nicole Schiff summarized the progress from the [February 25th Work Group Meeting](#). She explained that those who participate made a commitment to share data that will help confirm the true need and community capacity for care related to respite and residential treatment needs. She explained that there are case examples of the high amount of funding this community sends out to have youth cared for in other area residential treatment centers. Ms. Schiff added that the Paso del Norte Center Team is seeking out data on models that are

developing in other communities. For example, a recent conversation with Integral Care in Austin provided some insight into their recently funded respite program, successes, and challenges. She commented that the group is meeting monthly on the fourth Tuesday of every month at 9:00 am.

Other Business –

- Ms. Vanessa Leon of The Heart Gallery of El Paso commented that the first meeting of the new work group focused on Foster Care will meet this coming Friday, March 21st. The group's charge is aligned with the Heart Gallery's overarching mission and objectives. She explained that the starting group will include several key foster care and post adoption organization leaders, as well as several Texas Department of Family and Protective Services. The group will expand as needed.
- Dr. Carmen Graham provided an overview of the progress to develop a First Offender Program for youth who have committed an offense that could cause lifelong damage to their career paths. The program in collaboration with the Juvenile Justice Center and the County Attorney's Office is due to begin in August of 2025. Mr. Alfredo Aguero shared concerns that youth who are at risk for juvenile justice involvement should also be assessed for concerns with mental health conditions. The group entered into a discussion on the topic and several organization leaders shared their perspective on timely access to support and treatment for youth in need. Socorro Independent School District was recognized for its efforts to pilot this program. It is hoped that the program will be replicated in other school districts as data are gathered and shared.
- Enrique Mata asked the group to please save the date of May 1, 2025, for a youth summit. More information to follow. This summit will include data from the Health Foundation's grant to update the 2021 El Paso Behavioral Health System Assessment Quantitative Data Summary and provide opportunity for the El Paso Behavioral Health Consortium partners to refine data informed strategies and continue system improvement progress.
- Enrique Mata commented that Aliviane is planning a Youth Expo for May 13th, the same day as the next scheduled Family Leadership Council Meeting. It was suggested that Cathy Gaytan and Ivonne Tapia review the tasks related to the Youth Expo and explore whether the event warrants a change of date for the Family Leadership Council Meeting. No changes have been made to the scheduled FLC Meeting date at this time.
- As the meeting closed, Sandra Day requested that the meeting notes show the Paso del Norte Health Foundation's deadline for Letters of Intent to fund programs under the Mental Health and Emotional Well-Being health arena is April 3, 2025 . Anyone who would like information on the application process can contact her at sday@pdnfoundation.org or Enrique Mata at emata@mmhpi.org or Josue Lachica at jlachica@mmhpi.org .

Adjourn – Cathy Gaytan Adjourned the meeting at 10:07 am





EL PASO
Behavioral Health
CONSORTIUM



OF THE EL PASO BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CONSORTIUM



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OF THE EL PASO BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CONSORTIUM



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

FLC March 18 Agenda:

-  **Welcome and Introductions**
-  **West Texas Trauma Informed Care Consortium (WTTIC)**
-  **EPCGC's early childhood services**
-  **PdN Children's Partnership with Baylor College of Medicine**
-  **First Connection Work Group**
-  **Specialty Care - Respite/Residential Treatment**
-  **Other Business**
 -  **Heart Gallery of El Paso**
 -  **First Offender project**
 -  **Children's Mental Health Summit – May 1, 2025**
-  **Adjourn**



West Texas Trauma Informed Care Consortium (WTTIC)



EPCGC's early childhood services



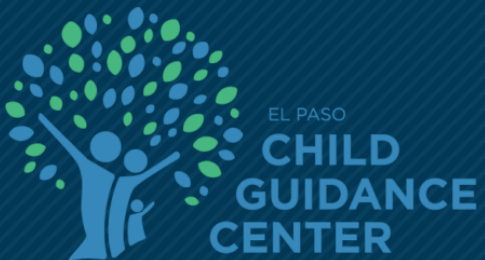
EL PASO
**CHILD
GUIDANCE
CENTER**

Providing quality child and family mental health care since 1954

Proudly Accredited since 2002



Our center is a nationally accredited outpatient mental health clinic in El Paso whose primary focus is assisting low-income children and their families.



Providing quality child and family mental health care since 1954

Who we are

PROVIDING QUALITY MENTAL HEALTH CARE TO
CHILDREN, ADOLESCENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES IN EL
PASO SINCE 1954



Mission

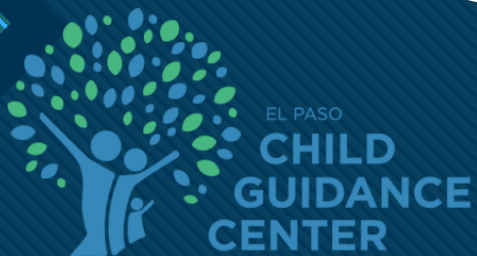
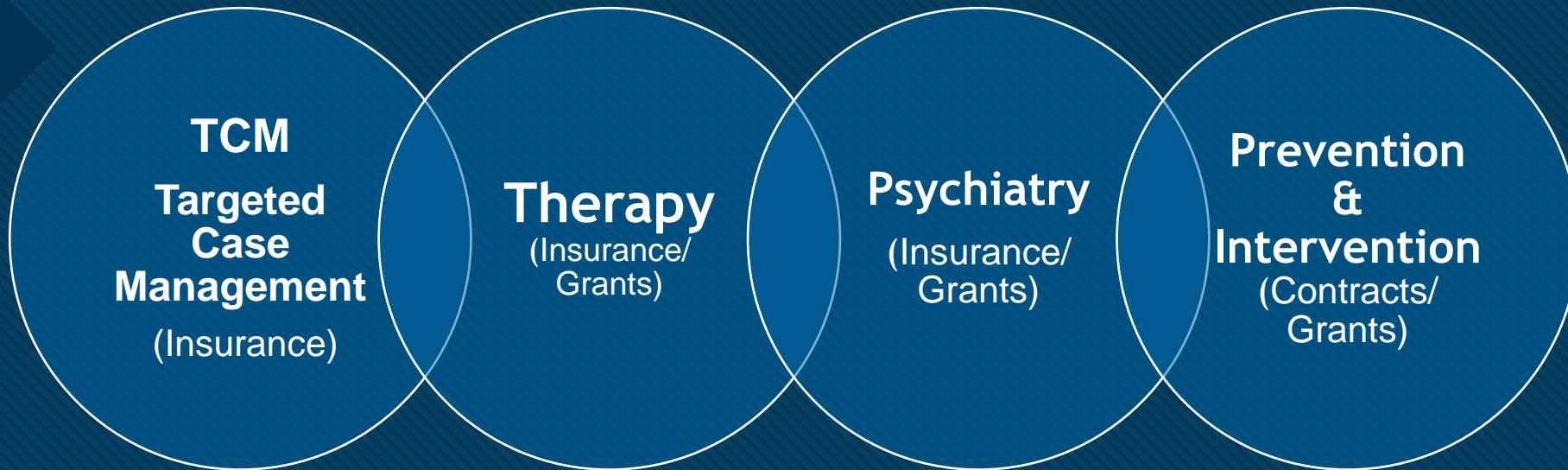
Improving the health and well-being of children and families in a safe environment through mental health services, education and awareness.

Vision

Transforming the Borderland by advancing mental health to foster healing and a stigma-free environment.



Our Programs



Providing quality child and family mental health care since 1954

PREVENTION & INTERVENTION

Early Childhood Services 0-5 years-old

- Psychoeducational Groups (parenting classes)
- Emotional Skill-Building Activities
- Individual Therapy Services (CWF Grant)



Free Services For Families



Services are for:

Parent/ caregivers of 0-5 year old children
OR
Expecting Parents

➤ Skill-building Activities
Emotional skill-building activities for children 3-5

➤ Individual Therapy
Available for children less than 5 years old, parents or caregivers.

➤ Weekly Parenting Classes
Nurturing Parents and Raising Resilient Children Curriculums

- Learn about discipline and how to incentivize children's behavior.
- How to strengthen the parent-child bond
- How to help children overcome adversities and be resilient.



Contact Information:

For Therapy: Yamile Hagemoser
(915) 562-1999
yhagemoser@epcgc.org

For Parenting Classes:
Mariana Cárdenas
(915) 562-1999 mcardenas@epcgc.org



FREE Nurturing Parenting Classes

Available for
Parents/caregivers of children
less than 5 years-old
&
Expecting parents

Every Tuesday
5:00PM to 6:00PM
2701 E Yandell Dr
Clases en Español Lunes de 3 pm a
4:30 pm

- 1) Nurturing Parenting
- 2) Growth and Development of Children
- 3) Parents and Children's needs
- 4) Managing and Communicating Feelings
- 5) Managing Anger and Stress
- 6) Understanding Discipline and Behavior
- 7) Rewarding Children and Their Behavior
- 8) Alternatives to Spanking



Contact us:
communitytrainings@epcgc.org
at (915)562-1999



FREE RISING RESILIENT CHILDREN



Available for
Parents/caregivers of children
less than 5 years old
&
Expecting Parents



Series of 3 Sessions:

- 1) Identifying and Responding to Trauma in Children
- 2) Raising Resilient Children
- 3) Strong Parent-Child Relationships:
Why are they important and how to build them



For more information:
communitytrainings@epcgc.org
at (915)562-1999



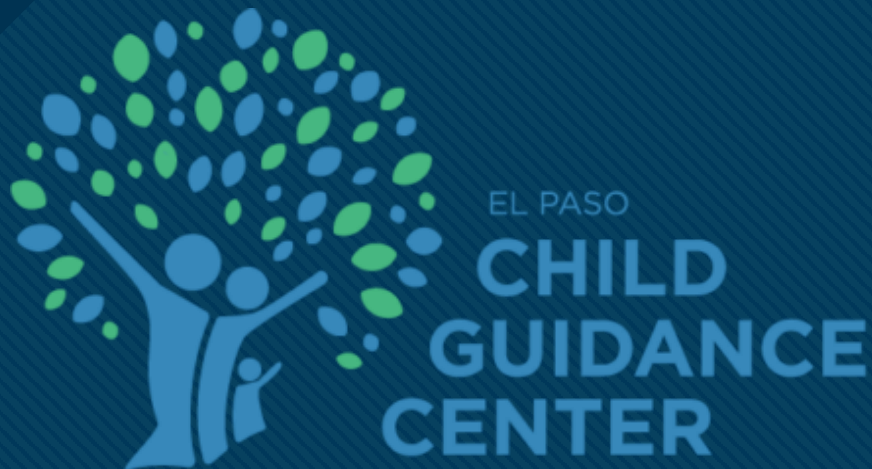
Locations

Central: 2701 East Yandell

East: 9001 Cashew, Suite 300

Prevention & Intervention Contact Information

Mariana Cárdenas, TIC Specialist Lead
mcardenas@epcgc.org
(915)562-1999



Providing quality child and family mental health care since 1954



PdN Children's Development Center Partnership with Baylor College of Medicine

Undiagnosed Diseases Network

Solving Medical Mysteries Through Team Science

Baylor
College of
Medicine

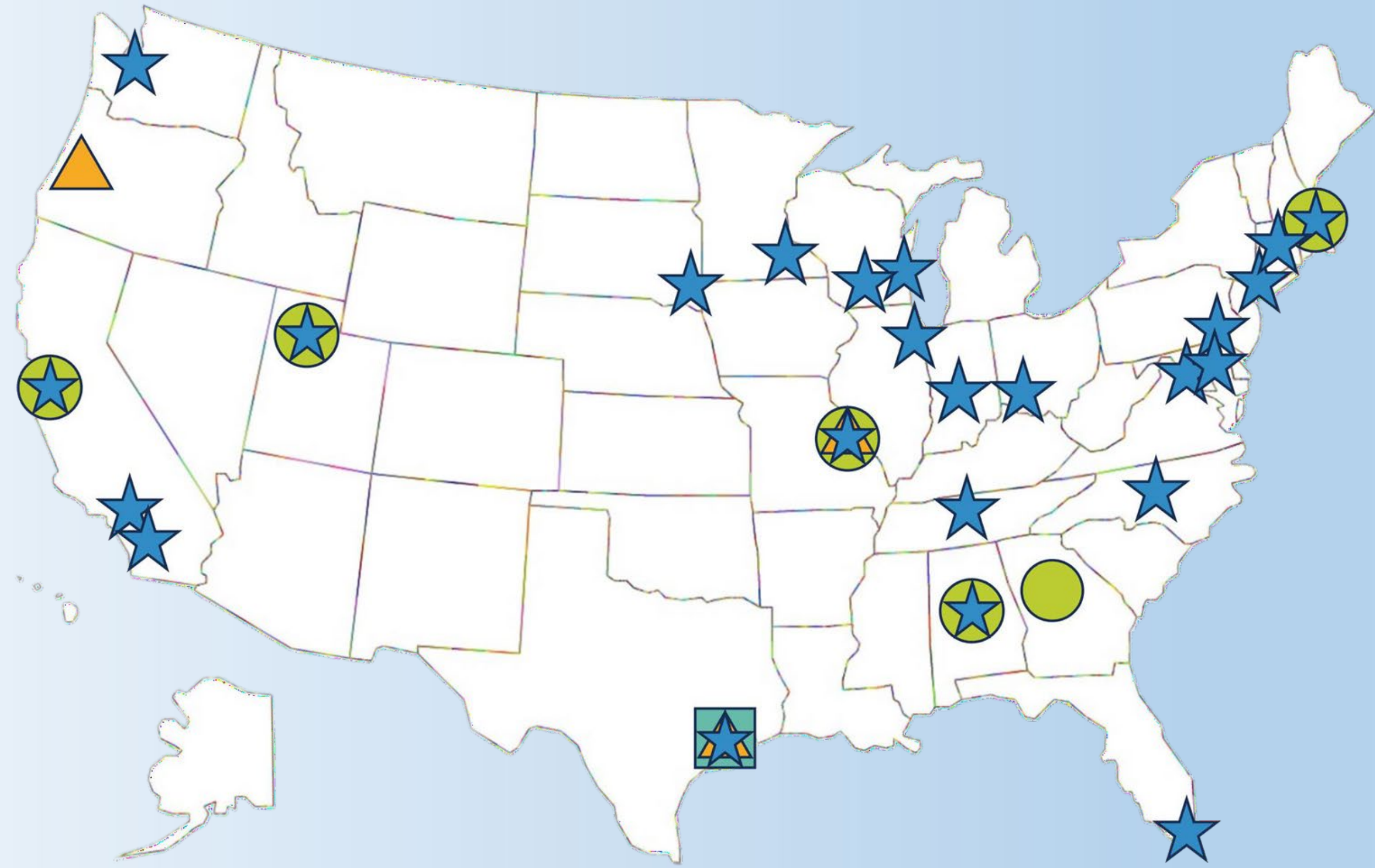
DEPARTMENT OF
MOLECULAR & HUMAN
GENETICS



Undiagnosed Diseases Network

The UDN has two main goals:

1. To provide answers for patients and families affected by mysterious conditions
2. To learn more about rare and common diseases.



- ★ Clinical Site
- ▲ Research Core
- Data Management Coordinating Center
- Sequencing Core

UDN at PdN Children's



Identify candidates

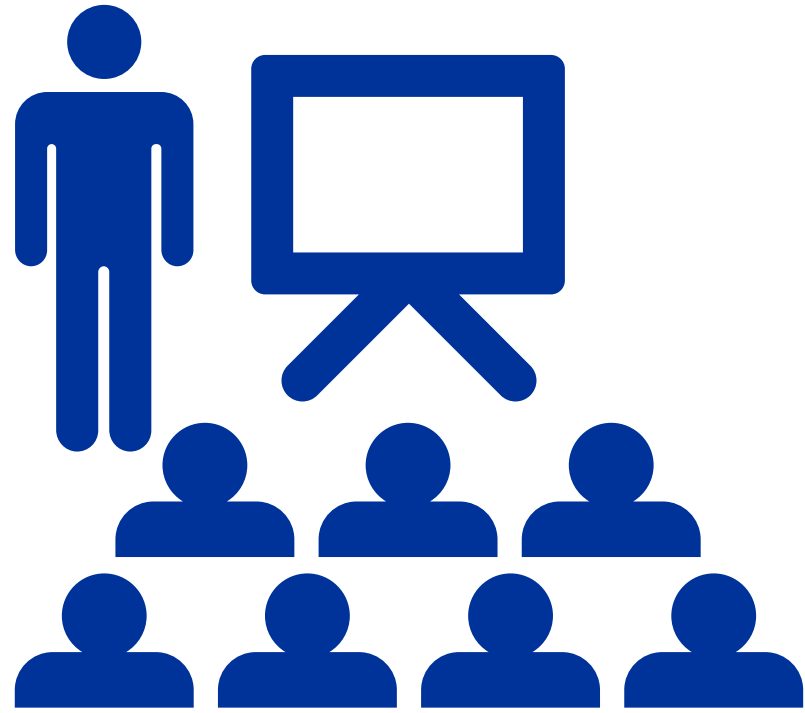


Provide space



Inform the community

UDN Baylor College of Medicine in El Paso



Education



Consultations



Staffing

Who is eligible for the UDN study?

Ideal applicants to the UDN include individuals with:

1. One or more objective findings pertinent to the phenotype for which a UDN application was submitted.
2. No diagnosis despite evaluation by at least two specialists who assessed the patient for the objective finding(s).
3. Agreement for the storage and sharing of information and biomaterials, in an identified fashion amongst the UDN centers, and in a de-identified fashion to research sites beyond the network.
4. Applicants unable to consent can be enrolled.

Applicants who are unlikely to be accepted include individuals with:

Ideal applicants to the UDN include individuals with:

1. Reported symptoms with no relevant objective findings.
2. A diagnosis explaining objective findings.
3. A diagnosis suggested on record review.
4. Unwillingness to share data.



How do I apply to the UDN study?



Apply Online



Request a paper application



Health care provider recommendation letter.

Study Recommendation Letter

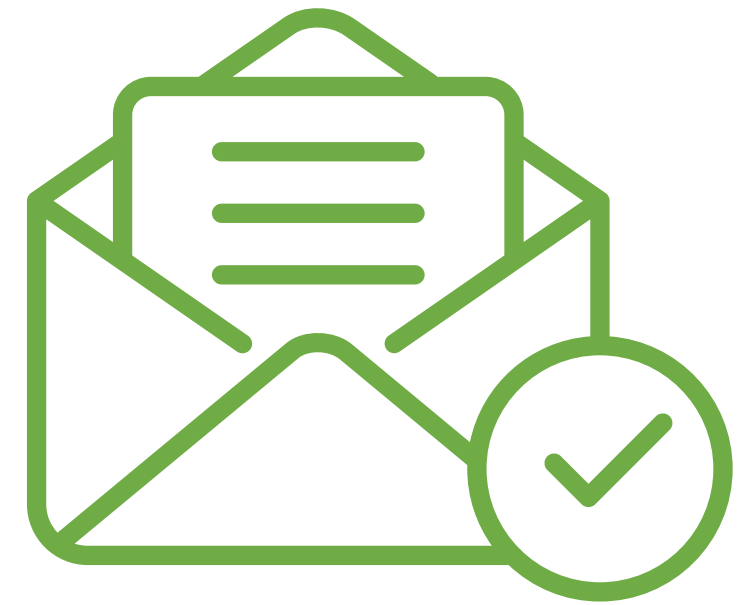
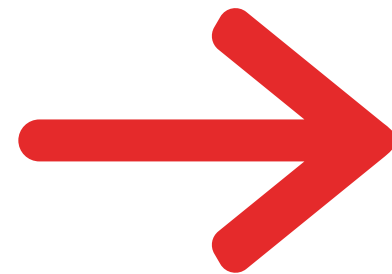
- A summary of the applicant's medical problems
- Date when symptoms were first noticed
- For pediatric patients: prenatal and birth history
- Previous diagnoses
- History of evaluations and tests
- History of treatments and medications
- Current medications
- Family history
- Health care provider's diagnostic impressions



Submit your application

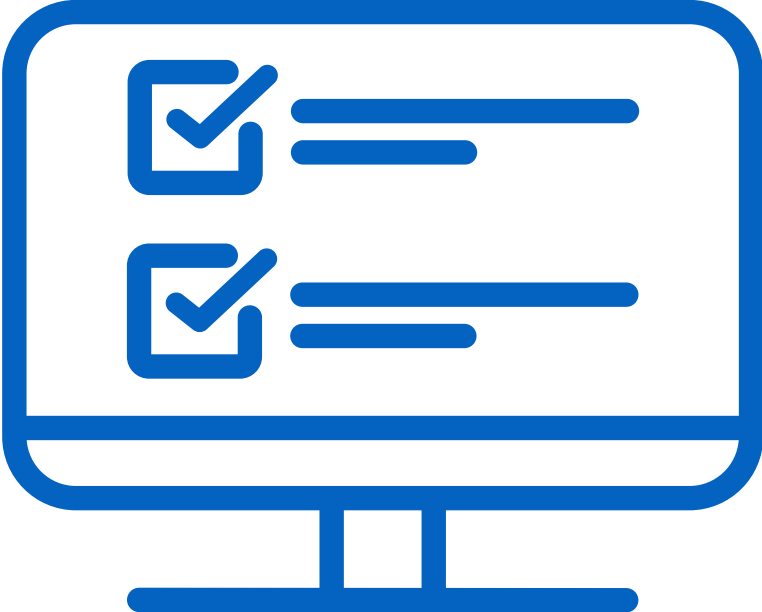


UPLOAD
APPLICATION

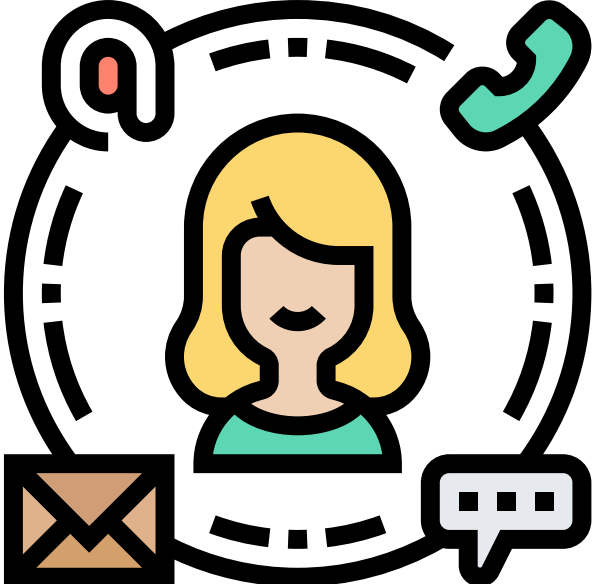


CONFIRMATION
EMAIL

Current Process



Application submitted



UDN contacts applicant



Communication of status

What's Next?



Didn't qualify or meet
the requirements needed
for the study

New information?
Request to review again



- Assigned a UDN clinical site
- Plan your UDN evaluation
- Provide medical records
- Enroll and consent
- Family history
- Photos and samples
- Travel to UDN clinical site
 - Visit a team of experts
 - Medical and research evaluation
 - Provide samples for testing
- Minimal to no cost

In a perfect world...



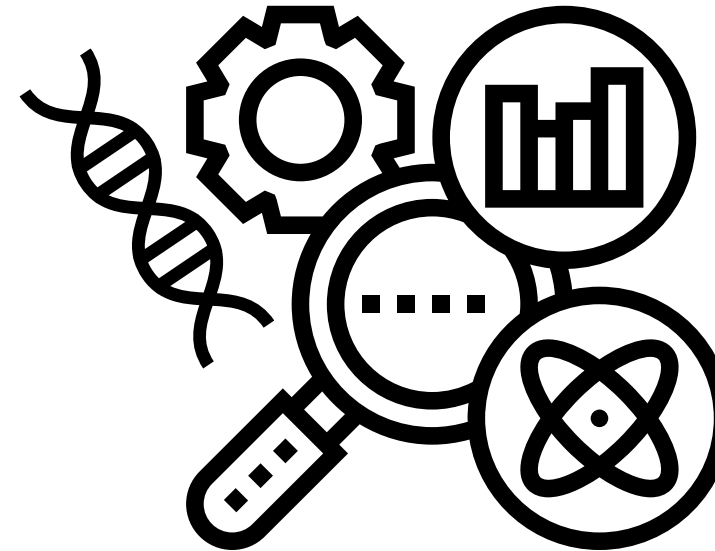
Reality



Participants Needed



- Provide answers to patients and families
- Share in the burden of those undiagnosed
- Provide guidance and expertise on condition



- Advancing scientific and medical knowledge
- Improving diagnostic strategies
- Enhancing healthcare equity
- Fostering collaboration and innovation

Contact us

Visit our website

<https://undiagnosed.hms.harvard.edu>

El Paso Contact

Dr. Camille Maldonado -Rivera
camille.maldonado -rivera@bcm.edu
(915) 257 -0807
(915) 502 -9801

UDN Helpdesk at Harvard

Hours: 9am - 5pm ET (Mon - Fri)
Email: UDN@hms.harvard.edu
1-844 -746 -4836
<https://undiagnosed.hms.harvard.edu/>

Baylor
College of
Medicine

DEPARTMENT OF
MOLECULAR & HUMAN
GENETICS



UDN Undiagnosed
Diseases Network

The Undiagnosed Diseases Network

What to do:

1. Apply online.
2. Attach a letter of recommendation from a healthcare provider. It must be in English, signed, and on letterhead.
3. Optional: attach a 1-page story about your patient journey
4. Reach out to the UDN Helpdesk if you need help!

More information on our website:



En Español



Need help?



UDN Helpdesk at Harvard

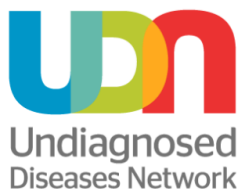
Hours: 9am – 5pm ET (Mon-Fri)

Email: UDN@hms.harvard.edu

Phone: 1-844-746-4836

<https://undiagnosed.hms.harvard.edu/>

For local support, contact
Dr. Camille Maldonado-Rivera at
(915)257-0807



DEPARTMENT OF
MOLECULAR & HUMAN
GENETICS



Are you

UNDIAGNOSED?

People with undiagnosed diseases often have seen several doctors and still do not have answers for their health.

The Undiagnosed Diseases Network (UDN) is a **research study** that may be able to help you find a diagnosis.



The UDN has three main objectives:

Improve diagnosis and care for patients with undiagnosed diseases

Research causes of undiagnosed diseases

Create research community to identify improved options for patients

Project GIVE



Project GIVE (**G**enetic **I**nclusion by **V**irtual **E**valuation) is an NIH study at Baylor College of Medicine that offers genetic evaluation and whole genome sequencing to children in El Paso and the Rio Grande Valley who have undiagnosed, potentially genetic conditions. We leverage the Consultagene platform to connect providers and patients with the genetics team located in Houston.

WHAT IS CONSULTAGENE?

Designed by the Department of Molecular and Human Genetics at Baylor College of Medicine, Consultagene is an online multimedia platform that provides educational resources and genetics healthcare services such as telegenetic counseling and peer-to-peer consultations

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

We are looking for pediatric patients with complex diseases, such as:

- Multiple congenital anomalies
- Developmental delay, learning difficulties, and intellectual disability
- Seizures
- Short stature or failure to thrive
- Other organ system-based complaints: cardiac, immunologic, ophthalmologic, dermatologic, endocrinologic, metabolic, neurologic, etc.)

HOW CAN YOU PARTICIPATE?

For Healthcare Providers: scan the QR code below to sign up for a Consultagene account and request a peer-to-peer consult with Project GIVE. If accepted, our clinical coordinators will contact you for next steps.

For Patients: please request a referral from your Healthcare Provider.

Research in this document is supported by the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS) at the National Institutes of Health under grant number UH3TR004047. The content is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of the National Institutes of Health.

CONTACT US
consultagene@bcm.edu
713-798-4159
www.consultagene.org



Project GIVE



Project GIVE (**G**enetic Inclusion by **V**irtual **E**valuation/Inclusión Genética por Evaluación Virtual) es un estudio financiado por el Instituto Nacional de Salud en el Baylor College of Medicine que ofrece evaluación genética y secuenciación del genoma completo a niños en El Paso y el Valle del Río Grande que tienen condiciones potencialmente genéticas no diagnosticadas. Aprovechamos la plataforma Consultagene para conectar a proveedores y pacientes con el equipo de genética situado en Houston.

¿QUÉ ES CONSULTAGENE?

Consultagene es una plataforma multimedia en línea designada por el Departamento de Genética Molecular y Humana de Baylor College of Medicine que proporciona recursos educativos y servicios de atención médica en genética, como asesoramiento telegenético y consultas entre pares.

¿QUIEN ES ELEGIBLE?

Buscamos pacientes pediátricos con enfermedades complejas, tales como:

- Anomalías congénitas múltiples
- Retraso en el desarrollo, dificultades de aprendizaje y discapacidad intelectual
- Convulsiones
- Baja estatura o retraso en el crecimiento
- Otras quejas basadas en sistemas de órganos: cardíacas, inmunológicas, oftalmológicas, dermatológicas, endocrinológicas, metabólicas, neurológicas, etc.

¿CÓMO PUEDES PARTICIPAR?

Para proveedores de atención médica: escanee el código QR a continuación para registrarse en una cuenta de Consultagene y solicitar una consulta entre pares con Project GIVE. Si es aceptado, nuestros coordinadores clínicos se comunicarán con usted para conocer los próximos pasos.

Para pacientes: solicite una derivación de su proveedor de atención médica.

La investigación en este documento es apoyado por del Centro Nacional para el Avance de las Ciencias. Traslacionales de los Institutos Nacionales de Salud con el número de subvención UH3TR004047. Los autores tengan la responsabilidad exclusiva para el contenido y no representa necesariamente los puntos de vista oficiales de los Institutos Nacionales de Salud.

CONTÁCTENOS

consultagene@bcm.edu
713-798-4159
www.consultagene.org





First Connection Work Group



Specialty Care - Respite/Residential Treatment



Other Business

 **Heart Gallery of El Paso**



Other Business

 **First Offender project**



Other Business



Children's Mental Health Summit

Save the Date May 1, 2025



NEXT MEETING

 **MAY 13, 2025, 8:30 am**

ADJOURN