



## Meeting Notes

Tuesday, April 8, 2025

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 EPISO/Border Interfaith, El Paso County Juvenile Justice Center, El Paso Center for Children, El Paso Child Guidance Center, El Paso Children's Grief Center, Family Service of El Paso, NMSU Student, NAMI El Paso, Paso del Norte Health Foundation, PdN Center at Meadows Institute, Jesuit Refugee Services, Centro San Vicente, and Centro de Salud Familiar La Fe.

### **Special Presentations:**

#### **EPISO/Border Interfaith**

#### **Community Organizing and Mental Health:**

Surya Kalra, Lead Organizer, and Amanda Mathis-Ozer, Community Organizer provided an overview of the history behind the EPISO and Border Interfaith organizations. They shared examples of the organization's work and their personal efforts to build trust and movements for community change. They explained that their efforts to improve mental health options with grassroots organizing are being met with a high degree of interest and support for better options and simpler access to timely mental health treatment. Ms Kalra and Ms. Mathis-Ozer responded to questions from the group. Presentation slides are included with these notes.

### **Updates:**

Maria Carrillo called for the group to share community updates. Highlights include:

The El Paso Center for Children event is hosting their annual "[Kickin Asphalt](#)" walk/run on Saturday, May 10<sup>th</sup> from 5:00-9:00 pm, the race starts at 6:00 pm at Sunland Park Racetrack & Casino.

Join **NAMI El Paso** for [Mental Health Night at the Chihuahuas](#) as the Chihuahuas take on the Tacoma Rainiers on **Thursday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>**. Purchase your tickets through the link on [NAMI El Paso's event page](#) and you will be invited to join the Pre-Game Parade and receive a special EP Mental Health Awareness Green Ribbon! A portion of each ticket purchased through this offer will also go back to support our work. Let's Strike out the Stigma!

[Family Service of El Paso](#) is hosting its annual [Mental Health Stars of El Paso](#) event on **May 28th from 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM at 9050 Viscount Blvd, 79925**. The event will help provide funding for the organization's mental health programs and to recognize mental health leaders

across the greater El Paso community. For more information contact David Chayer at: [DChayer@familyserviceofelpaso.org](mailto:DChayer@familyserviceofelpaso.org).

The El Paso County Juvenile Probation Department will be hosting an event in June. More information to follow.

[El Paso Children's Grief Center](#) is offering a range of services to address grief.

[El Paso Child Guidance Center](#) is offering parenting classes and therapy services including services for Targeted Case Management, and other programs. The organization is planning a grand re-opening for their Yandell Offices on May 28th event ep child guidance.

Flyers or other information may be included below 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, June 10<sup>th</sup> at Paso del Norte Health Foundation, 221 N. Kansas, 19<sup>th</sup> Floor Meeting Room C. 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).

The background of the image is a complex, abstract network diagram. It consists of numerous nodes of varying sizes, some solid black, some solid blue, and some white with black outlines. These nodes are interconnected by a web of thin, light gray lines. The overall composition is dynamic and suggests a global or community network. A large, solid black rectangle is positioned in the lower right quadrant, serving as a backdrop for the text.

# **EPIISO/BORDER INTERFAITH**

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**Connecting Our Community Since 1982**

# BROAD-BASED ORGANIZING

## Member Institutions

- ❖ Churches
- ❖ Synagogues
- ❖ Non-profits
- ❖ Unions

They Pay Dues to EPISO/BI

We ID and Train Leaders

Develop Power



# MEMBERSHIP

		In Talks With
Sacred Heart	St. Luke's	Episcopal Diocese
Ciudad Nueva	St. Rafael	Methodist Churches
University Presbyterian Church	Queen of Peace	Cristo Rey
St. Thomas Aquinas	St. John Paul II	El Paso Community College
St. Patricio - Canutillo	Christ the Savior	Temple Mt. Sinai
St. Juan Diego – Montana Vista	Project Arriba	

# ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- ❖ Water & Sewer in the Colonias - Ongoing
- ❖ Workforce Development – Project Arriba
- ❖ Economically impacting El Paso and county by over \$2 billion with infrastructure and increased tax base from higher income workers.
- ❖ Direct Cash Assistance for the neediest in our community.
- ❖ Alliance Schools Program (1990's)
- ❖ Political Accountability
- ❖ Helping the poor and underserved of El Paso and County.

# RELATIONAL MEETINGS

## One-to-One's

- Determine interests for both
- Develop trust

## House Meetings

- Group <10 people
- Talk about issues in the community
- What keeps you up at night?



# LEADERS

- ☐ Heart for serving their community
- ☐ They have followers
- ☐ Determine direction of EPISO/BI work
- ☐ 2-10 Leaders/Institution
- ☐ Can Build Teams of People in their Institutions







# 2024 CIVIC ACADEMIES

Mental Health  
Education  
Immigration

# MENTAL HEALTH

Mental Health was the top priority

Research Actions

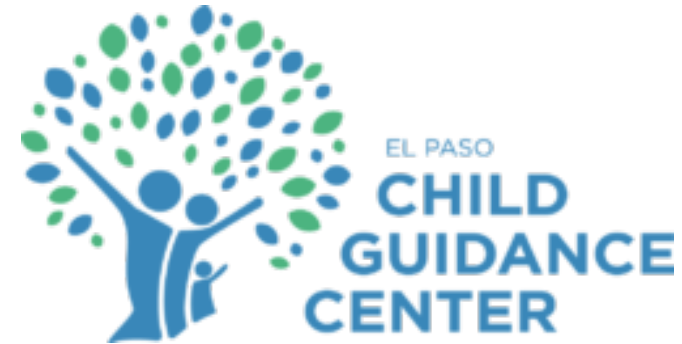
Met with Leading Providers and  
Thinkers in the Mental Health Field  
in El Paso

Presented the Information learned  
at a Civic Academy.

Leaders want



Mental Health  
FIRST AID



**Emergence Health Network**



# RELATIONAL POWER & MENTAL HEALTH

18 Clergy

55 Lay Leaders

Using our vast network to

