



**Meeting Notes**  
**September 9, 2025**  
**8:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.**

**Paso del Norte Health Foundation**  
**221 N. Kansas, 19<sup>th</sup> Floor**  
**El Paso, Texas 79901**  
**Meeting Room C**

**Attendees:**

Sharon Butterworth  
Mariana Cardenas  
David Cotchery  
Sandra Day  
Misty Gallegos  
Janine Gallinar  
Catherine Garcia  
Elisa Garcia  
Jennifer Garcia  
Cathy Gaytan  
Enrique Herrera  
Samantha Lopez  
Victoria Lopez-Unzueta  
Adriana Lopiccolo  
Laura Marquez  
Amanda Martinez  
Enrique Mata  
Amanda Mathis-Ozer  
Rosie Medina  
Dr. Eva Moya  
Doris Ogribene  
Dr. Carmen Olivas-Graham  
Dr. Viridiana Ortiz

**Representing:**

PdN Center at Meadows Institute  
El Paso Child Guidance Center  
Veterans Outreach  
Paso del Norte Health Foundation  
Texas A&M TOPS Program  
Children's Grief Center of El Paso  
El Paso County Juvenile Probation Department  
El Paso Psychiatric Center  
Child Crisis Center of El Paso  
El Paso Child Guidance Center  
Socorro Independent School District  
The University of Texas at El Paso  
United Way of El Paso  
Paso del Norte Children's Development Center  
Paso del Norte Children's Development Center  
Socorro Independent School District  
Paso del Norte Center at Meadows Institute  
EPISO/Border Interfaith  
Chief of Juvenile Probation County of El Paso  
The University of Texas at El Paso  
Emergence Health Network  
Socorro Independent School District and EPCC  
The University of Texas at El Paso

Julie Priego	Aliviane Inc.
Rachel Quintanilla	Project Vida El Paso
Jamie Rocha	Texas A&M TOPS Program
Nicole Schiff	Paso del Norte Center of Hope
Beth Senger	El Paso Center for Children
Ivonne Tapia	Aliviane Inc/FLC Chair
Wes Temple	Region 19 Education Services Center
Isidro Torres	NAMI El Paso
Sophie Wozniak	Emergence Health Network
Yahell Zuniga	The University of Texas at El Paso

### **Welcome and Introductions**

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

### **UTEP and the LaMantia family Stars Scholarship Fund for LCSW Licensure**

Dr. Moya and Dr. Ortiz provided a thought-provoking presentation on the LCSW Supervision project and the vision for adding thirty-six more licensed clinical social workers practicing in the region. The vision is also for the project to continue through policy change creating a lasting pathway that supports individuals who aspire to complete the rigorous requirements to practice as a LCSW. PowerPoint slides are included with these notes.

### **Specialty Care Work Group**

Nicole Schiff summarized the activity from the meeting on July 29<sup>th</sup>. She also shared the news of the new Care Coordination project developing as a result of Office of the Governor funding. This new line will be available for providers who encounter or suspect human trafficking and related trauma they will be able to call an 800 number for assistance 24/7. She also reinforced the need for care availability for individuals who need wraparound services and for those who require residential treatment. The next meeting of the Specialty Care Work Group is set for September 29<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am at Paso del Norte Health Foundation Meeting Room C.

### **First Connection Work Group**

Laura Marquez shared a summary of the discussion topics from the First Connection Work Group meeting held on August 19<sup>th</sup>. She also shared the new [Help Me Grow resource referral website](#) and explained how this asset can help providers with navigating care for their clients. Ms. Marquez called for FLC partners to scan the site and confirm the accuracy of the information posted on their organization and those with which they are familiar. The Next First Connection meeting is scheduled for 9:00 am on Tuesday, October 21<sup>st</sup>. The work group is also planning an event to follow up on Collaborative Care models in the community including providing continuing education credits for providers.

### **Hb 1481 Task Force**

Ms. Tapia shared a brief overview of the sequence of events that led to developing the HB 1481 task force. She explained the group met a couple of times and overall comments from the group were that the situations were not as bad as initially anticipated. There were only sparse concerns with individuals who have medical conditions. Currently the schools are working on more of an honor system. For example, in Socorro ISD the high schools are allowing the students to put the phone in their backpacks during class, and they can use them during lunch. Mr. Enrique Herrera with Socorro Independent School District stated that Elementary school have less concerns as the policy to limit access to cell phones has been in place since 2011. This recent modification only reinforced the need for improved compliance. The group, including Wes Temple from Region 19 shared that similar results are being seen across the districts, with teachers and students especially positive. Mr. Herrera commented that there is still a need for an offense sequence of actions. For example, 1st offense, a reminder, 2nd offense, the teacher holds the phone until the end of class and phone cannot be charged during class. 3rd offense confiscating the phone and send to the office, and 4th offense confiscating the phone and requiring a conference with parents plus phone prohibited if youth comes back to school.

There were comments from the group that decreases in complaints about cyberbullying in comparison to the same time last year were significantly less. Dr. Carmen Graham commented that the Socorro District is tracking this and other indicators and will share the information with the FLC as it becomes available. Ms. Tapia commented that the group reinforced it is still early in the school year and that It would be a good idea to convene once more sometime in November.

### **Other Business**

[Texas Substance Use Symposium, October 17<sup>th</sup>](#) – Ms. Tapia shared information about the upcoming symposium scheduled for October 17<sup>th</sup>. The Texas Substance Use Symposium is partnering with The University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) to convene local leaders for a one-day regional summit. This free, in-person event is open to anyone in the West Texas region who wants to learn and share science-driven solutions for substance use services. Explore real challenges facing our community and collaborate on bold, innovative ways to reduce the impact of substance use.

Isidro Torres highlighted some **NAMI El Paso upcoming events in September and October** including:

- Saturday, September 20, from 11 AM–7 PM, all Sun City Tattoo locations are coming together for a powerful day of hope, remembrance, and solidarity. Get a semicolon tattoo starting at \$50. It is a symbol of strength, resilience, and the choice to keep going. Wear it for yourself, in memory of a loved one, or to stand with others. A portion of proceeds will support NAMI El Paso and help raise awareness for suicide prevention in our community.

- The NAMI El Paso annual Suicide Prevention Awareness Month Candlelight Vigil on Thursday, September 25, from 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM at the Memorial Park Reserve Shelter. This gathering allows us to amplify the message that suicide is not the answer and that there is hope. We spread awareness, hear personal testimonies, and light candles to honor those we have lost to suicide. This event is free and open for the community to attend.
- The NAMI El Paso Annual NAMI Walk! This signature event had over 1000 people participating last year. The NAMI El Paso Team works hard every year to bring a message of hope, kindness, support, and recognition that mental health is vital to overall health. Join in on this free event Saturday, October 18th at Ascarate Park to learn more as community organizations share stories of recovery, reduce fear of mental health conditions, and promote emotional well-being through exercise and social connections. For more information visit: <https://www.namiwalks.org/elpaso>

Mr. Cotchery shared an upcoming event to honor El Paso Veterans. He explained that in the Paso del Norte region there are over 29,000 veterans who are not connected with the VA . This upcoming job and health fair will help bring awareness to the support services available for veterans. He asked for anyone interested in setting up a booth on **November 10<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm at Basset Place Mall please reach out to Luis Hernandez at 915-774-0525 or [lhernandez@agif-nvop.org](mailto:lhernandez@agif-nvop.org)**

**Adjourn** – Ivonne Tapia Adjourned the meeting at 10:02 am



## THE TEXAS MODEL FOR CARE COORDINATION OVERVIEW: CRISIS INTERVENTION AND SERVICE PLANNING FOR COMMERCIALLY SEXUALLY EXPLOITED YOUTH

The Care Coordination Model is a consensus-driven, collaborative approach to identify, recover, and facilitate tailored, accessible, trauma-informed holistic resources through a coordinated network of providers.

### HOW CARE COORDINATION WORKS

Care Coordination is a multidisciplinary response. Care Coordination creates a path to healing, justice, and restoration by increasing access to non-punitive, community-based services for children and youth ages 0-18.<sup>1</sup> Facilitated by a designated Care Coordinator (CC), Care Coordination utilizes protocols emphasizing crisis response and continuous service planning.

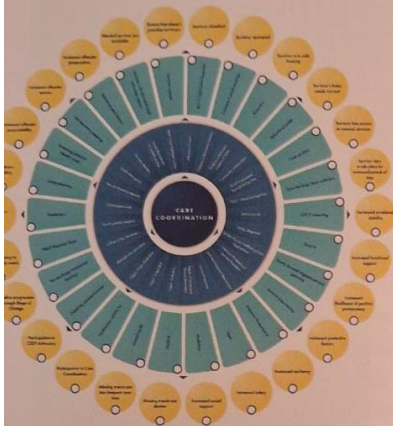
The CC occupies a central role on the Care Coordination Team (CCT), facilitating case service staffings and coordinating CCT activities for the most effective response. Initially, CCs may help identify placement or other critical services for the victim; however, after the initial crisis recovery period the CC does not provide case management. CCs are partner-facing rather than survivor-facing. Refer to the Care Coordinator Responsibilities document for a detailed description of the roles and responsibilities of Care Coordinators.

The Care Coordination team (CCT) comprises an interagency network of members which include:

- Children's Advocacy Centers (CAC)
- Court-Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)
- CSEY Advocacy agencies
- Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS)
- Medical providers
- Intensive Wraparound Service Providers
- Juvenile Justice (JJ)
- Law Enforcement (LE)
- Legal—County and District Attorneys
- Legal service providers
- Prosecutor

Additional partners may include sexual assault programs, child protection judges, and others as determined by the local team.

Care coordination employs awareness, education, creativity, collaboration, and capacity-building to protect, identify, and recover CSEY, and to facilitate tailored, accessible, trauma-informed and holistic resources through a coordinated network of providers. Care coordination teams build trust, transparency and solutions with each other to mitigate duplication of work, so that local and statewide partners are bridges instead of barriers to services for children, youth and families.<sup>2</sup>



#### CARE COORDINATION TEAM

Interagency coordination of service planning and service delivery to ensure the immediate and long-term needs of CSEY are met. Coordinates care regardless of case status.

**Emphasis on crisis response and continuous service planning.**

Refer to the [Care Coordination Logic Model](#) document for Resources, Activities, and Outcomes details.

#### CARE COORDINATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

Once Care Coordination is developed and operating, a supportive leadership body called the Advisory Council (AC) is initiated. The AC is comprised of senior leadership from CCT members and ensures the sustainability of Care Coordination. Please refer to the [Advisory Council Essential Elements](#) document for a comprehensive overview of the AC purpose and functions.

The Care Coordination model originated from legislation in 2015 to end the commercial sexual exploitation of youth.

## CARE COORDINATION DEVELOPMENT & PROTOCOLS

The goal of Care Coordination is that every identified child survivor of sex trafficking and exploitation has access to non-punitive, responsive, high-quality community-based services that meet their unique short-term and longer-term needs.

These are the five crucial steps and guiding principles that Care Coordination Work Groups utilize when implementing the model:

### STEP 1

Create a Care Coordination Development Workgroup

### STEP 2

Establish CC and identify CSEY advocacy resource

### STEP 3

Develop a process map, consensus on CSEY protocol and agreements

### STEP 4

Establish a Local Advisory Council

### STEP 5

Establish a plan to train care coordination partner organizations on CSEY protocol

### GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Care Coordination development is a **transparent** process where partners can openly identify strengths and gaps.

**Mutual trust** among partners must be present to solve for gaps and facilitate process improvement.

Team members must bring an **openness** to discuss, question, and change perspective and a **commitment to continuous improvement**.

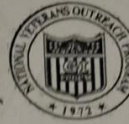
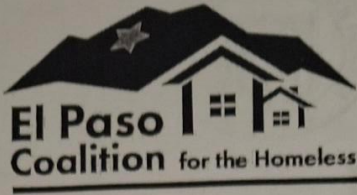
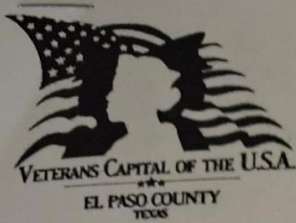
For more information on Care Coordination, please contact:

**Jessica Hess**

Office of the Governor  
Central Texas Regional Advisor,  
Child Sex Trafficking Team  
[Jessica.Hess@gov.texas.gov](mailto:Jessica.Hess@gov.texas.gov)

<sup>1</sup> Texas CSEY Care Coordination promotes sustainable autonomy, healing, justice, and stability for youth ages 0-18 who have experienced commercial sexual exploitation. Counties may decide to serve victims up to age of 21 if the victim/survivor entered services under 18.

<sup>2</sup> Non-offending caregivers and siblings.



NATIONAL VETERANS  
OUTREACH PROGRAM



BassettPlace

## El Paso Honoring Veterans

Join us for the final Job Fair and  
Self-Improvement Fair for 2025

Happy  
Marine Corps  
Birthday

November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025  
From 10:00AM – 4:00PM

All donations and proceeds help the NVOP assist  
with support service needs to include food donations  
& assistance to avoid homelessness insecurity during  
the upcoming holiday season.

The 1<sup>st</sup> annual Community Service Awards celebration.

*Non-Profit Fundraiser*



**GRAND CANYON  
UNIVERSITY**



5959 Gateway West Ste. 644 | El Paso, Texas 79925 |

For Question please contact [Luis Hernandez @ \(915\) 774-0525 | lhernandez@agif-nvop.org](mailto:Luis.Hernandez@agif-nvop.org)

# TEXAS OPIOID PREVENTION FOR STUDENTS

**JOINING FORCES WITH TEXAS TO PROMOTE YOUTH OPIOID MISUSE PREVENTION**

- Engage communities to raise awareness on illicitly manufactured fentanyl (IMF) and the youth opioid crisis.
- Implement the K-12<sup>th</sup> *Think Smart* opioid misuse prevention education and resources in schools
- Support schools with mental and behavioral health resources.

*TOPS employs three strategies to meet Texans where they are*

- Needs Assessments**
  - Conduct school surveys
  - Key informant interviews
  - Secondary data scoping study
- Opioid Prevention Education**
  - Implement 8-12 Opioid Prevention Education
  - Target at-risk students
- Opioid Awareness**
  - Town hall sessions
  - Community education
  - Social media campaigns

ATM HEALTH

# NAMI Walks

## El Paso

Saturday, October 18  
Start time: 8AM  
Ascarate Park (6900 Delta Dr, El Paso, Texas)

We are NAMI Walks

Mental Health for all



EL PASO  
**Behavioral Health**  
CONSORTIUM



OF THE EL PASO BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CONSORTIUM



OF THE EL PASO BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CONSORTIUM











OF THE EL PASO BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CONSORTIUM



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

# FLC General Meeting September 9 2025 Agenda:

-  **Welcome and Introductions**
-  **UTEP and the LaMantia family Stars Scholarship Fund for LCSW Licensure**
-  **Specialty Care Work Group**
-  **First Connection Work Group**
-  **HB 1481 Task Force**
-  **Other Business**
  -  **Texas Substance Use Symposium, October 17th**
-  **Adjourn**



# UTEP and the LaMantia family Stars Scholarship Fund for LCSW Licensure



# Specialty Care Work Group



# First Connection Work Group



# HB 1481 Task Force



# Other Business

## Texas Substance Use

## Symposium, October 17th



 **NEXT MEETING**

 **ADJOURN**

**WELCOME / BIENVENIDOS(AS)**

**UTEP Social Work Department**

**LCSW Supervision Initiative**

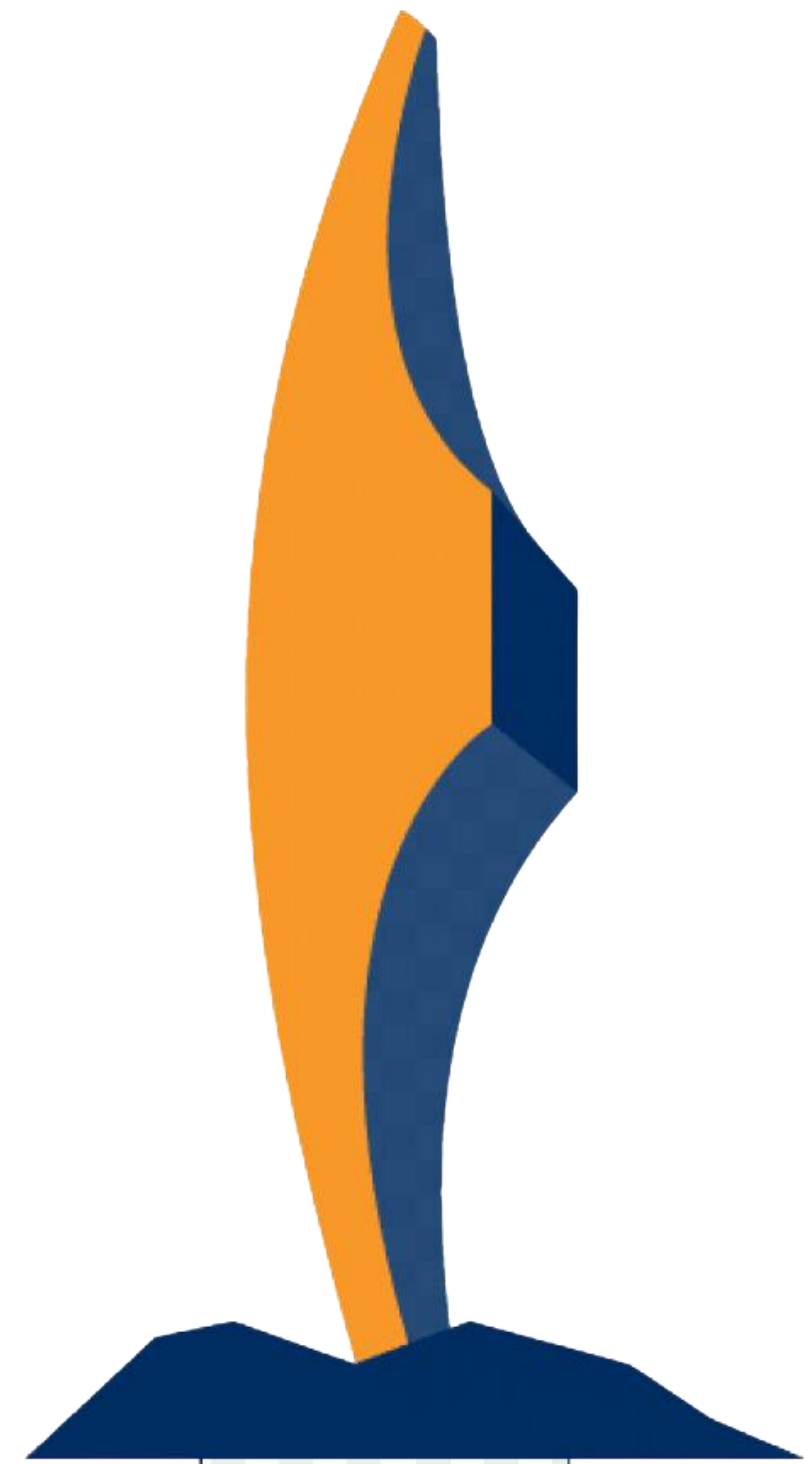
**September 9th, 2025**

**Family Leadership Council**

**Paso del Norte Health Foundation**

**Dr. Eva Moya, Ph.D., LMSW**

**Dr. Viridiana Ortiz, Ph.D., LCSW-S**



# UTEP Department of Social Work Mission



“... to educate students from diverse backgrounds to become ethical, competent, culturally responsive, and community-engaged social work practitioners equipped to provide advanced practice with an emphasis on the border region, at the micro, mezzo, and macro levels to promote social, racial, economic and environmental justice in partnership with the diverse population of the U.S.–Mexico border region and beyond; and produce and disseminate high-impact, interprofessional, and transformative research to strengthen community wellbeing and enhance social and health equity.”

*Dedicated to student access and success*

# Program Overview



## LCSW-Supervision Program

- The LCSW-Supervision Program with the UTEP Department of Social Work was made possible by a gift from the LaMantia Family through the Stars Scholarship Fund.
- To address the shortage of mental health providers in the El Paso Border Region.

# Who Can Apply & What's Required



## Requirements

**3,000**

Supervised  
Practice  
Hours

**Duration:** Minimum 2 years

**4+** Clinical  
hrs/week

**100 hrs**  
Clinical  
Supervision

## Eligibility

**\$20**

Per hour weekly  
supervision fee

LaMantia Family gift  
through the Stars  
Scholarship Fund  
covers remaining  
80% of weekly  
supervision costs

- **36 graduates from UTEP MSW or other UT MSW program**
- A recommendation letter (supervisor or professor)
- **Interview** with faculty

# Licensure Requirements (LMSW → LCSW)



## Experience



- **3,000 Hours supervised clinical work (24-48 months)**
  - **100 Hours direct supervision**
- 

## Additional



- **Education: CSWE-Accredited MSW Program**
  - **Exam: Pass ASWB Clinical Exam**
  - **Criminal background check**
-

# UTEP Program Supervisors



**Dr. Viridiana Ortiz, PhD,  
LCSW-S**

## Part-time Faculty

- BSW, The University of Texas at El Paso
- MSW, The University of Texas at El Paso
- PhD, Our Lady of the Lake University
- LCSW-S, State of Texas
- Practice Experience: Medical social work; integrated behavioral health; mental health services with Native American and Hispanic populations; crisis intervention; program development and administration



**Dr. Jason Mallonee, DSW,  
LCSW-S**

## Clinical Assistant Professor

- BA, Visual Art, Oberlin College
- MA, Education, Antioch University
- MSW, University of Southern California
- DSW, University of Pennsylvania
- Practice Experience: Trauma & mental health treatment; community treatment; crisis intervention; program development & administration



**Yahell Zuñiga, LCSW-S**

## Clinical Instructor

- BSW, The University of Texas at El Paso
- MSW, University of Denver
- LCSW, State of Texas
- Practice Experience: Children and adolescent mental health; early childhood intervention; children with disabilities; family court services; clinical counseling; clinical supervision

# LCSW-S Program 1st Cohort (Jan. 2025)



## Dr. Ortiz



Name	Employer	Clinical Site
Christian Salas	El Paso Community College	Cuidad Nueva and Dismas Charities
Claudia Calderon	University Medical Center	Infusion Center/Cancer Center
Marissa Cena	School District	Alternative School

## Dr. Mallonee



Name	Employer	Clinical Site
Sipriano Serrano	Las Palmas Medical Center	Mind Forward Health Center
Ana Gonzalez	Molina Healthcare	Cuidad Nueva
Melissa Lopez	El Paso Independent School District	Rio Vista Behavioral Health
Idamar Acosta	University Medical Center	Family Service of El Paso

# LCSW-S Program 2nd Cohort (July 2025)



## Dr. Ortiz



Name	Employer	Clinical Site
Myrna Diaz	El Paso Behavioral Health	El Paso Behavioral Health and the Grief Center
Jason Cagann	The Opportunity Center for the Homeless	The Opportunity Center for the Homeless
Vanessa Medrano	La Clinica de la Familia	The Talk Shop

## Dr. Mallonee



Name	Employer	Clinical Site
Daniel Muñoz	Well Mind	Well Mind
Kaycee Carmignani	PhD Student	Centro de Salud Familiar La Fe

# LCSW-S Program 1st Cohort - Practitioners

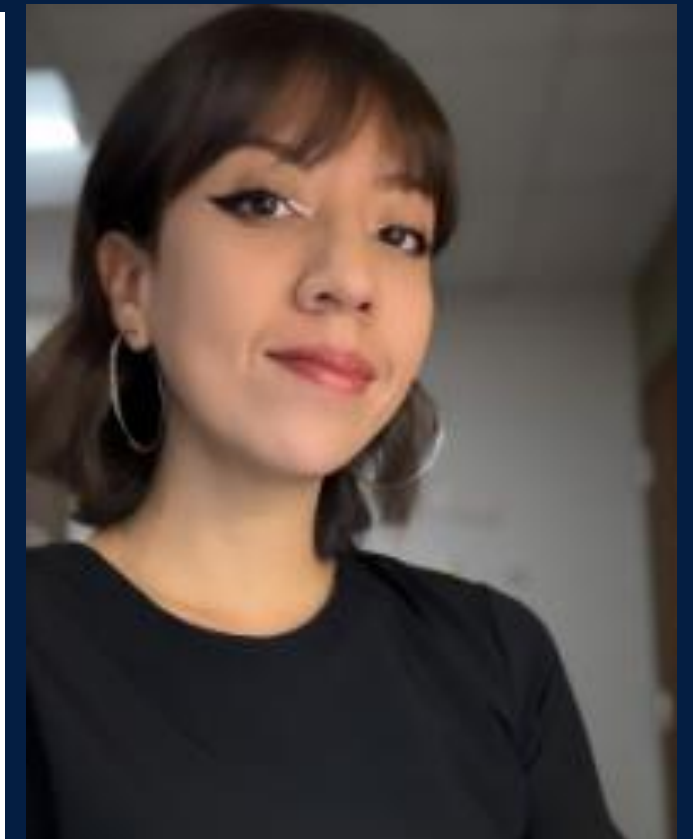


## CHRISTIAN SALAS

Christian Salas, LMSW, is a graduate of the BSW and MSW programs at UTEP and currently serves as an Associate Professor of Social Work at EPCC. He previously worked as a clinical therapist in both profit and non-profit mental health clinics across the El Paso–Southern New Mexico region, serving children, adolescents, and adults with mental health and substance use needs. He actively promotes the social work profession through service on local, state, and national boards and councils, as well as through frequent presentations, workshops, and trainings.

## MELISSA LOPEZ

Melissa Lopez is a school social worker at a PK–8 school in El Paso, TX, where she provides socioemotional support, crisis intervention, and community resource linkage for students and families. As part of UTEP’s LCSW-S Program, she is earning her clinical hours while working with children and adolescents experiencing anxiety, depression, trauma, and behavioral challenges in both individual and group settings. She is committed to serving the border community as a developing clinician, with a focus on culturally responsive and trauma-informed care for youth and families.



# LCSW-S Program 2nd Cohort - Practitioners



## KAYCEE CARMIGNANI

Kaycee Carmignani is a PhD student in UTEP's Interdisciplinary Health Sciences Program, completing her clinical supervision at Centro de Salud Familiar La Fe. A graduate of UTEP's BSW Honors and Advanced Standing MSW programs, her interests include mental health among veterans and unsheltered populations, program development, and macro-level social work. Her long-term goals are to earn her LCSW, complete her PhD, and advance initiatives that support underrepresented communities.

## DANIEL MUÑOZ

Daniel Muñoz is a therapist at WellMind, providing traditional therapy and neurofeedback with a focus on veterans. Dedicated to serving those who served, he works toward licensure while specializing in trauma, PTSD, depression, and moral injury. Integrating evidence-based practices with neurofeedback, Daniel creates a supportive space for healing, resilience, and growth.



# Scan & Share: Recruit With Us



## LCSW SUPERVISION PROGRAM 2025



Powered By QuestionPro

Scan the QR code or access the application via  
the UTEP Dept. of Social Work website

**APPLY NOW**



### About the program

A gift from the LaMantia Family through the Stars Scholarship Fund to the UTEP Department of Social Work was awarded to establish a supervision program for 36 practitioners to complete their LCSW Supervision at a reduced cost.

### Who is Eligible?



Graduates from  
UTEP MSW or other  
UT MSW Program



Must have graduated in the past  
10 years (2015 - Present)



Applicants must be  
committed to pay \$20  
per hour of weekly  
supervision  
(\$80 per month)

*Please visit the UTEP Department of Social Work website to learn more*

**Thank You**

**Gracias**

