



### **Meeting Notes**

September 25, 2025

2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Paso del Norte Health Foundation

Meeting Room C

221 N. Kansas, 19<sup>th</sup> Floor

El Paso, Texas 79901

#### **Attendees:**

Elizabeth Arrellano

Joel Bishop

Sharon Butterworth

Michael Cuccaro

Sandra Day

Catherine Jones

Josue Lachica

Enrique Mata

Maggie Morales-Aina

Laura Moreno

Edythe Payan

Annabelle Perez (JLC Chair)

Jennifer Romero

Arturo Senclair

#### **Representing:**

County of El Paso – CJC - Reentry

County of El Paso

Paso del Norte Center at Meadows Institute

County of El Paso

Paso del Norte Health Foundation

County of El Paso

Paso del Norte Center at Meadows Institute

Paso del Norte Center at Meadows Institute

County of El Paso

United States Department of Homeland Security

El Paso County Public Defender's Office

Judge 41<sup>st</sup> District Court

U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation

El Paso Police Department

#### **Welcome**

Judge Perez convened the meeting at 2:05 p.m. and called for brief introductions.

#### **SB 9 Updates**

Judge Perez and Joel Bishop provided an overview of the recent challenges developing as a result of the activation of the 89<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session Senate Bill 9. The new law includes stipulations that magistrate judges can no longer set bail on certain offenses. The individual would need to go before a district court judge. This is creating an increase in the jail population. They explained that overall bookings are decreased by 25-30% yet the jail population is increasing. In addition to the challenges with increasing jail population, there is a significant

budget deficit attributable to the Lone Star Project. The group discussed ways to help ensure that the people who are in jail deserve to be there. An additional change was mentioned related to Senate Joint Resolution SJR 5 which broadens judges discretion on bail. The group reinforced the importance of lawyers, jail, and police staff awareness and cooperation to reduce the potential for individuals remaining in jail longer than expected.

### **Diversion/ Sobering Center**

Joel Bishop announced the upcoming opening of the Diversion Center at Emergence Health Network's (EHN) 1601 Yandell location. In addition to the current stabilization unit, the expansion will add three beds able to serve individuals for an average three hour length of stay providing capacity to serve numerous individuals in need and connect them with the appropriate services. The idea is to have a medical team available and even the possibility for virtual court hearings to maximize diversion options. EHN is working on a communications plan to bring awareness of the expansion of services to the key stakeholders with plans to begin services this fall. The group discussed the need for de-tox services. Mr. Bishop commented that while de-tox services will not be provided at the site, an agreement with Homeward Bound is in the works.

### **Mental Health Law Plan**

Judge Perez provided a summary of the opportunities for system improvement identified during the Mental Health Law Plan development process. The group shared positive comments on the recommendations and how they align with each intercept in the Sequential Intercept Model (SIM). Enrique Mata commented that with these recommendations the Justice Leadership Council can move forward with the next steps in updating the current 2022 SIM. He added that with the Youth SIM now available the work to update the SIM with an emphasis on Transition Age Youth will bring additional opportunities to prevent and divert youth and young adults from justice involvement. The summary document is included with these notes.

### **Reentry**

Elizabeth Arellano provided a summary of recent activities connected with Reentry health promoting efforts. She also shared two handouts. One with a listing of felony friendly employers in the area, and the other with a listing of available housing for individuals leaving incarceration. She and Catherine Jones shared that in October the Reentry Team will begin work on comprehensive supports for opioid and other substance use. Individuals in need will be able to get counseling, support medications and free ride shares through the Texas Opioid Abatement Council Opioid Settlement Funding and other funding supports becoming available. This is timely as data show increases in meth and cocaine to the same levels as fentanyl and opioids. Ms. Arrellano and Catherine Jones responded to questions from the group. The next meeting of the Reentry Working Group is scheduled for Friday, October 24<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 am to 11:00 am at Paso del Norte Health Foundation, Meeting room C.

### **Justice Leadership Coordinating Committee**

Michael Cuccaro reported that the JLCC now has presence from all the County offices as well as the City Chief of Police. There is opportunity for Judge Perez to add items to the meeting agenda as needed. For example, Judge Perez is calling for more professional training for private attorneys.

Mr. Cuccaro also summarized a recent event that took place titled "the ALL RISE SEMINAR." He explained that the Council of Judges sponsored the event with more than 125 participants from all types of professions. This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> year in a row, and the event was a great success. Mr. Cuccaro responded to questions from the group.

### **Jail Diversion Committee**

Edy Payan provided brief comments on the Jail Diversion Committee. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 1<sup>st</sup>, from 11:30 am -12:30 pm did not meeting in July. Many groups were out of office for the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday, which is the week of the regular meeting. The next meeting will be held on August 6<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Payan responded to questions from the group.

### **Other Business**

The group entered into a discussion on the need for continuing and strengthening training options. Ms. Payan and Maggie Morales-Aina commented that cross discipline trainings were a regular offering in the past. They are still important because people move from key positions. The group agreed that the private bar also needs to be more aware of the work groups and committees that meet and the improvements we are trying to implement. The group also suggested exploring the development of a "County Resource Corner" in the form of a web landing page or the possibility of having a "Diversion Hub App" that could be access from smart phones for the most up to date information. The PdN Center Team will explore options with the County and other groups who might have similar models.

Judge Perez welcomed Laura Moreno, United States Department of Homeland Security and Jennifer Romero, U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation. She emphasized the importance of their presence to contribute to the discussions on diversion topics, human trafficking, and others.

### **Adjourn**

Judge Perez adjourned the meeting at 3:17 pm.

**JCMH RECOMMENDATIONS**  
**IMPLEMENTATION OF EL PASO MENTAL HEALTH LAW PLAN**

**Justice Leadership Council, September 25, 2025**

**Intercept: Public Health System**

1. Opportunity: Expand service array at Emergence - their extended observation unit is not attached to a medical facility, lacks a comprehensive array of services, and lacks capability to conduct medical clearance. This results in multiple transports of the same patient.
2. Opportunity: Mental Health System Review Meetings are an opportunity for stakeholders to discuss the current processes and procedures for mental health laws and policies. During the workshop, several stakeholder meetings were identified. El Paso County will inventory which groups of stakeholders are meeting when before they set up a mental health system review meeting. Judge Annabell Perez's staff will complete this inventory. Regardless of who leads the system meeting, there should be at least one quarterly meeting to address wide-ranging concerns.
3. Opportunity: Formalized and mandatory multidisciplinary education was suggested as an opportunity to train all stakeholders on countywide legal processes, including prosecutors and attorneys who take appointed cases from the appointment wheel. Some training about serving people in the least restrictive appropriate setting is available but could be offered more widely. El Paso County is home to experts in all disciplines who can provide training on various topics and has resources that can be leveraged. For example, Magdalena Morales-Aina, Director of El Paso CSCD, has previously trained stakeholders on Cultural Competency. Leveraging local experts to provide regular and cross-disciplinary trainings on these and other topics can increase systemic understanding and efficiency.

**Intercept 0: Community Services**

1. Opportunity: Create a formal process to identify people charged with nonviolent misdemeanors eligible for the AOT court and transfer them from criminal court to the probate court pursuant to Code of Criminal Procedure art. 16.22(c)(5).
2. Opportunity: Draft new hospital memoranda of use, as the current MOUs restrict the number of hospitals to which law enforcement may transport a patient and issues regarding patient drop off and release were reported.
3. Opportunity: Increase services for people with IDD.

4. Opportunity: Educate stakeholders and the public that jail is not an appropriate setting for crisis stabilization or medication management.
5. Opportunity: Identify more locations that can offer health assessments to deter the use of jail booking as the result of a detention.
6. Opportunity: Create a long-term detox facility for people with high acuity mental health needs that exceed a short-term intoxication incidence.
7. Opportunity: Multidisciplinary training from mental health professionals, including education on the difference between mental health crises and behavioral health crises.

### **Intercept 1: Law Enforcement**

1. Opportunity: Create a planning team to explore an system to have apprehension by peace offices without warrants. (Texas Health & Safety Code Section 573.001) The planning team should tour similar facilities in Dallas, Harris, Lubbock, and Tarrant Counties, and focus on efforts to minimize law enforcement time and resources.
2. Opportunity: Form a subcommittee to explore these options to resolving emergency detention issues, collaborate with local facilities, and identify actionable steps to achieving these goals.
3. It was not clear whether law enforcement officers are aware that a person with IDD who lives in a group home or ICF/IID can be released to their residence in lieu of arrest if the officer believes confinement is not necessary to protect the person and others who reside at the residence, and has made reasonable efforts to consult with the staff at the residence and the person under Texas Code of Criminal Procedure art. 14.035.
4. Opportunity: Educate the public and stakeholders on public safety and the rights of crime victims, including the crime victims' rights in the Texas Constitution.
5. Opportunity: Provide mental health training to officers that is not related to CIT.
6. Opportunity: Identify and support law enforcement officers who are willing to “wear many hats” and perform non-traditional policing duties such as mental health engagement and de-escalating civil disputes.

## **Intercept 2: Initial detention/Court Hearings**

1. Opportunity: Create a list of attorneys with specialized mental health knowledge. Magistrates will appoint an attorney from the Public Defender's Office "as soon as possible."
2. Opportunity: Create a written procedure manual for the 16.22 process for continuity and consistency.
3. Opportunity: Include jail data sets in the Health Information Exchange, as the HIE collects a significant amount of data on mental health and co-occurring disorders.
4. Opportunity: Inventory and locally validate all the county's pretrial assessments for El Paso's cultural context. This effort is already underway, partnering with the University of Texas at El Paso and Rice University.
5. Opportunity: Identify and implement a single point of assessment that feeds into all specialty court programs, streamlining the referral process.
6. Opportunity: Identify underutilized resources and shelters for use by justice-involved individuals. Overstretched shelters such as the Opportunity Center and Salvation Army offer limited services that frequently fail to meet the many needs of justice-involved individuals.
7. Opportunity: Improve communication about bond hearings between all offices, including Emergence, the county jail, and the Public Defender's Office, so that when an individual on a mental health bond is released from jail, all entities are aware of the individual's release plan and treatment plans.
8. Opportunity: Increase public awareness of and access to community-based health, mental health, and substance use services. For some individuals, jail has been the only place they have received any physical healthcare, mental healthcare, or substance use disorder treatment.
9. Opportunity: Use mental health bonds and other strategies to expand judges' discretion in setting bonds and bond conditions.

## **Intercept 3: Courts**

1. Opportunity: Evaluate varied diversion programs for implementation in El Paso.
2. Opportunity: Formalize collaboration between CJC and CSCD on supervision conditions.

3. Opportunity: Consider how the magistration and bond process can be streamlined in cases with 16.22 reports, including earlier involvement of defense counsel.
4. Opportunity: Ensure competency restoration is reserved for cases where there is a compelling interest in prosecution, and that stakeholders understand the purpose of competency restoration, as opposed to holistic mental health treatment.
5. Opportunity: Exert judicial pressure to keep working on a case while the individual is at the state hospital, and implement efficient transportation policies. Court staff should also quickly set these cases when individuals return from the state hospital to prevent decompensation.
6. Opportunity: Ensure both steps of the statutory process for court-ordered medications are appropriately implemented. Consider implementing a policy to file medication applications within 30 days of an individual's return from the state hospital.

#### **Intercept 4: Re-Entry**

1. Opportunity: Develop a coordinated reentry effort. Services are available spread across various agencies.
  - A. Texas Correctional Office for Offenders with Medical and Mental Impairments (TCOOMMI)
  - B. Local Mental Health Authority (LMHA)
  - C. Outreach, Screening, Assessment, and Referral (OSAR)
  - D. Prison/Jail Reentry Services
  - E. Peer Services/Community Peer Organizations
  - F. Benefit Re-enrollment
  - G. Community Engagement Strategies
  - H. Wraparound Services
2. Opportunity: Increase the use of evidence-based treatments, such as Medication-Assisted Treatment for people with substance use disorder.
3. Opportunity: Obtain permanent funding for projects such as the Transitional Living Center and the Welcome Center.

4. Opportunity: Hire a Reentry Coordinator, based at Emergence, to immediately link individuals who are released from jail to services.
5. Opportunity: Create a system to follow up on the individuals who have MH flags and link them to services.
6. Opportunity: Create stepdown housing, such as a rapid stabilization unit.
7. Opportunity: Integrate training across sectors, giving stakeholders a broader understanding of each piece of the Sequential Intercept Model.

### **Intercept 5: Community Corrections**

1. Opportunity: Construct a true diversion center for people who could be, but have not been, charged with certain nonviolent misdemeanor offenses.
2. Opportunity: Implementation of a hybrid diversion in which a person who is charged with a criminal offense is transported under an Emergency Detention Order to a designated behavioral health hospital, the criminal charge is filed, and the person is transferred from the hospital to the jail for booking once they have been stabilized.
3. Opportunity: Implementation of non-arrest policies.
4. Opportunity: Expand AOT.
5. Opportunity: Use the TRAS risk assessment at the time of arrest and allow cases that meet specialty court entry criteria to be identified and fast-tracked.
6. Opportunity: Fully re-engage the "DIMS" intake with the assistant district attorney so that mental health considerations are made early.
7. Opportunity: Implement jail-based competency restoration (JBCR).
8. Opportunity: Reentry transitional living and support center, such as a transitional living center, city's welcome center, and detox center.
9. Opportunity: Expand use of the Health Information Exchange (HIE). The Paso del Norte Health Information Exchange (PHIX) can establish real time data integration with a consolidated call center and dispatch, CIT, MDRT, co-responder units, the county jail, and new reentry and diversion facilities. Emergence's behavioral health data could be expanded at every intercept.

## List of Felon Friendly Employers

(Companies that hire felons)

This list below shall serve as a starting point for felons & ex-convicts in finding a job after leaving prison. The companies listed below are known to also offer jobs for felons & that apparently does not, however, guarantee that you will be able to land a job there. You will have to check out their hiring website, do the research & follow the application process like normal.

- Aamco
- Ace Hardware
- Allied Van Lines
- American Greetings
- Anderson Windows
- Apple Inc.
- Aramark
- AT&T
- Avon Products
- Baskin-Robbins
- Black & Decker
- Blue Cross & Blue Shield Association
- Braum's Inc
- Bridgestone
- Buffalo Wild Wings
- Campbell's Soup
- Canon
- Carl's Jr
- Caterpillar Inc.

- CDW
- Chili's
- Chipotle
- Cintas
- Community Education Centers
- ConAgra Foods
- Dairy Queen
- Delta Faucet
- Denny's
- Dole Food Company
- Dollar Rent a Car
- Dollar Tree
- Dr. Pepper
- Dunlop Tires
- Dunkin' Donuts
- DuPont
- Duracell
- Epson
- ERMCO, Inc.
- Family Dollar
- Firestone Complete Auto Care
- Pilot Flying J
- Fruit of the Loom
- Fujifilm

- General Electric
- General Mills
- Georgia-Pacific
- Goodwill
- Grainger
- Greyhound
- Hanes
- Hilton Hotels
- Home Depot
- IBM
- In-N-Out Burger
- Jack in the Box
- Kelly Moore Paints
- KFC
- Kohl's
- Kraft Foods
- Kroger
- LongHorn Steakhouse
- Lowe's
- LSG Sky Chefs
- McDonald's
- Men's Wearhouse
- Metals USA
- Miller Brewing Company

- Motorola
- The New York Times
- Olive Garden
- PepsiCo
- Phillip Morris Inc.
- Pilgrim's
- Red Lobster
- Red Robin
- Tyson Foods
- U-Haul
- US Steel Corporation
- Volunteers of America
- Walgreens
- Wendy's
- Wyndham Hotels
- Salvation Army
- Sara Lee
- Shell Oil
- Shoprite
- Sony
- Subway
- Xerox
- Albertsons
- Applebees

- Bahama Breeze
- Best Western
- Carrier Corporation
- Chick-fil-A
- Chrysler
- Dart Containers
- Deer Park Spring Water
- Eddie Vs Prime Seafood
- Embassy Suites
- Food Services of America
- Frito-Lay
- Genentech
- Golden Corral
- Great Clips
- HH Gregg
- IHOP
- Ikea
- J.B. Hunt Transport
- Jiffy Lube
- Jimmy Johns
- Nordstrom
- O'Charleys
- Pactiv
- Pappadeaux

- PetSmart
- Preferred Freezer Services
- Praxair
- Radisson
- Restaurant Depot
- Reyes Beverage Group
- Rubbermaid
- Ruby Tuesday
- Rumpke
- Seasons 52
- Sysco
- Teleperformance
- Tesla
- US Foods
- WinCo Foods
- Yard House

Hopefully, this list of jobs for felons as well as jobs that hire felons will be useful for your job search

**Available Units** - Please note that some units are subject to a background check and may require an application fee. Requirements vary by property and are determined by the individual housing provider.

Zazeny llc  
(915) 465-2991  
 1100 Myrtle Ave #7  
 \$425 Monthly Rent  
 1Bed1Bath

Brenda  
(915) 588-8557  
 4513 Arlen Ave  
 \$600 Monthly Rent  
 1Bed1Bath

Lisa M Swiger  
(915) 256-9129  
 2866 Grant Ave #6  
 \$650 Monthly Rent  
 1Bed1Bath

Adryana Martinez  
(915) 309-1419  
 14854 Big John Dr #A  
 \$650 Monthly Rent  
 1Bed1Bath

Jorge Bustamante Jr.  
(915) 757-5351  
 3216 Lebanon Ave #3  
 \$650 Monthly Rent  
 1Bed0.5Baths

Dos Pueblos Realty, LLC  
(915) 260-9958  
 1318 Saint Johns Dr  
 \$650 Monthly Rent  
 1Bed1Bath

Roberto F. Anchondo  
(915) 491-9270  
 2129 Bassett Ave #4  
 \$675 Monthly Rent  
 1Bed1Bath

Final FY 2025 & Final FY 2024 FMRs By Unit Bedrooms					
Year	Efficiency	One Bedroom	Two-Bedroom	Three Bedroom	Four Bedroom
FY 2025 FMR	\$821	\$1,020	\$1,192	\$1,647	\$2,002

09/02/2025

**Available Units** - Please note that some units are subject to a background check and may require an application fee. Requirements vary by property and are determined by the individual housing provider.

**DKD ASSOCIATES, INC.**

(915) 772-9177

3526 Nations Ave

\$695 Monthly Rent

1Bed1Bath

**Liz Arellano-Wiggins**

(915) 478-2051

3312 Montana Ave #REAR

\$700 Monthly Rent

1Bed1Bath

**Brenda**

(915) 588-8557

4513 Arlen Ave #7

\$700 Monthly Rent

1Bed1Bath

**Marcelo Rosales**

(915) 503-7442

8940 Lawson St #4

\$700 Monthly Rent

1Bed1Bath

**Property Manager**

(915) 260-9958

5125 Trowbridge Dr #5

\$725 Monthly Rent

1Bed1Bath

**John Hogan**

(915) 383-4663

701 W Yandell Dr #1

\$725 Monthly Rent

1Bed1Bath

**Alejandro Candela**

(915) 260-7033

116 N Clark Dr #B

\$750 Monthly Rent

1Bed1Bath

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Jorge Leon  
(915) 726-7637  
 6041 E Yandell Dr  
 \$750 Monthly Rent  
 2Beds1Bath

Manuel Zaragoza  
(915) 256-2424  
 8606 N Gateway Blvd  
 \$750 Monthly Rent  
 1Bed1Bath

Andrea Linan  
(915) 539-9918  
 1300 N Ochoa St #8  
 \$750 Monthly Rent  
 1Bed1Bath

Daniel Lara  
(915) 740-8743  
 131 Linden St #C  
 \$750 Monthly Rent  
 1Bed1Bath

Lisa M Swiger  
(915) 256-9129  
 1100 Cedar St #1  
 \$755 Monthly Rent  
 1Bed1Bath

Ray Duran  
(915) 751-8611  
 5219 Fairbanks Dr #5219B  
 \$780 Monthly Rent  
 1Bed1.5Baths

Property Manager  
(915) 242-5557  
 4410 Trowbridge Dr #C  
 \$850 Monthly Rent  
 1Bed1Bath

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Agent

(915) 995-5616

708 S Saint #D

\$895 Monthly Rent

1Bed1Bath

Yedidya Joseph

(978) 810-5372

15144 Jacob Kuechler Dr #C

\$900 Monthly Rent

1Bed1Bath

Mark E. Estrada

(915) 666-2988

5860 Cleveland Ave #5

\$725 Monthly Rent

2Beds1Bath

Dayanna Flores

(915) 267-6846

13340 Horizon Blvd #19

\$800 Monthly Rent

2Beds1Bath

Francisco Alfredo Negrete

(915) 726-0044

7167 N North Loop Dr #5

\$800 Monthly Rent

2Beds1Bath

Alejandro Diaz

(915) 603-1437

1128 E River Ave

\$800 Monthly Rent

2Beds1Bath

Michael Harmon

(915) 731-7460

8829 Ankerson Dr

\$850 Monthly Rent

2Beds1Bath

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Showing Coordinator

(915) 233-7904

3702 Keltner Ave #8

\$875 Monthly Rent

**2 Beds 1.5 Baths**

Lucy Okubo

(915) 227-7531

239 N Seville Dr

\$887 Monthly Rent

**2 Beds 1.5 Baths**

246.5  
246.5

0 Affordable Housing

(915) 204-9802

0 1400 N Virginia St #3

0 \$895 Monthly Rent

**1 Bed 1 Bath**

86.5

160

The Town 915

(915) 204-9614

2523 Federal Ave #2

\$900 Monthly Rent

**2 Beds 1.5 Baths**

Norma Sime

(915) 487-0231

648 White Cliffs Dr #D

\$955 Monthly Rent

**2 Beds 1 Bath**

James

(209) 534-9316

9735 Ahumada Dr

\$995 Monthly Rent

**2 Beds 1 Bath**

Texas Realty

(915) 779-3505

1307 E Nevada Ave #B

\$995 Monthly Rent

**2 Beds 1 Bath**

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