



Meeting Notes
November 4, 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:

Karina Bocanegra
Sharon Butterworth
Mariana Cardenas
David Cotchery
Sandra Day
Rosa E. Flores
Janine Gallinar
Catherine Garcia
Cathy Gaytan
Emily Hartmann
Cynthia Henry
Linda Gonzalez-Hensgen
Sarai Kuri
Laura Marquez
Enrique Mata
Dinorah Mcnamin
Rosie Medina
Doris Ogribene
Dr. Carmen Olivas-Graham
Rachel Quintanilla
Chris Rey
Victoria Reyna
Nicole Schiff

Representing:

Stephen A Cohen MFC
PdN Center at Meadows Institute
El Paso Child Guidance Center
Veterans Outreach
Paso del Norte Health Foundation
Proyecto M.A.M.A.
Children's Grief Center of El Paso
El Paso County Juvenile Probation Department
El Paso Child Guidance Center
Paso del Norte Health Information Exchange (PHIX)
Paso del Norte Center of Hope
Family Service of El Paso
El Faro Parenting Class/LPCS Private Practice
Paso del Norte Children's Development Center
Paso del Norte Center at Meadows Institute
Family Service of El Paso
Chief of Juvenile Probation County of El Paso
Emergence Health Network
Socorro Independent School District and EPCC
Project Vida El Paso
El Paso County Juvenile Probation
El Faro Parenting Class/LPCS Private Practice
Paso del Norte Center of Hope

Brenda Sanchez	El Paso Downtown Management District (DMD)
Diana Serrano	El Paso Center for Children
Emily Steussy	El Paso Independent School District
Ivonne Tapia	Aliviane Inc/FLC Chair
Wes Temple	Region 19 Education Services Center
Isidro Torres	NAMI El Paso
Kathie Valencia	El Paso Center for Children

Welcome and Introductions

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

El Faro, ADHD Parenting Class

Ms. Sarai Kuri and Ms Victoria Reyna, both independent licensed professional counsellors, presented on a program they offer as a Team entitled El Faro. The program is a free Spanish-language Parent Behavior Training (PBT) Course, created in partnership with the Duke Psychiatric ADHD Department. They explained that offering this course provides early support for parents and can change the trajectory of health and emotional well-being for the individual and family. The parent training helps caregivers understand behavior, build effective routines, and respond with tools, not just frustration. Ms. Kuri and Ms. Reyna responded to questions from the group. Presentation slides are included with these notes.

Family Advisory Council

Kathie Valencia introduced Diana Serrano, the current Chair of the Family Advisory Council. They both were pleased to report that the Family Advisory Council has grown in strength with more than 30 members now. They offered the Family Advisory Council as a resource for gathering input from parents in neighborhoods across El Paso. Both responded to questions from the group. Presentation slides are included with these notes.

EP County Juvenile Justice Center and Creative Kids Collaboration

Chief Rosie Medina introduced the Juvenile Justice Center's new Deputy Chief, Christopher Rey. Mr. Rey provided brief comments.

Chief Medina then introduced Steven Ingle of Creative Kids. Both summarized the program partnership that developed for the youth in the Juvenile Justice Center. They presented a video to share the history of program and called for ideas to continue support for its use in the Center. They responded to questions from the group. The video can be viewed at the following link:

[Project TAP \(Transformative Art Program\)](#)

Specialty Care Work Group

Nicole Schiff summarized the activity from the meeting on September 30th. She explained that a collaboration may be developing among several partner organizations to help address the concerns with residential treatment. She responded to questions from the group.

First Connection Work Group and November 14th Hybrid CoCM Event

Laura Marquez commented that the next First Connection Work Group meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 2nd from 9:00 – 10:30. She and Mr. Mata also shared the upcoming hybrid event opportunity set for 11:00 am on November 14th. Ms. Marquez and Mr. Mata responded to questions from the group. A flyer on the November 14th event is included with these notes.

Other Business



Reflections from the [Texas Substance Use Symposium](#), Ms.

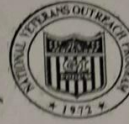
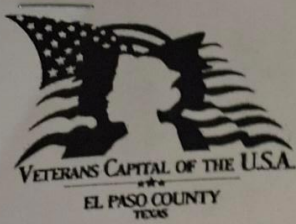
Tapia shared some comments on the symposium held on October 17th. The Texas Substance Use Symposium

partnered with The University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) to convene local leaders for a one-day regional summit. The event included a panel discussion with Meadows Institute and El Paso community leaders Darilynn Bieler, MSSA, LCSW, Senior Vice President for Specialty Healthcare, Josue Lachica, MA, PdN Center Assistant Director, Rosie Medina, MJM, El Paso County Chief of Juvenile Probation, Dr. Carmen Olivas-Graham, Socorro Independent School District Director for Administrative Services, and Christopher Bailey, RSPS, MA, Project Vida Health Center. They presented on a United Community Response to Substance Use in El Paso, Mr. Lachica and Dr. Graham both commented that the event was very well attended. The interactive panel presentation explored the importance of unified, data and stakeholder informed goals and community collaboration to make lasting improvements in the systems of care.

Mr. Cotchery shared a flyer for the upcoming event to honor El Paso Veterans. This upcoming job and health fair will help bring awareness to the support services available for veterans. The event will be held on **November 10th from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm at Basset Place Mall.**

Adjourn – Ivonne Tapia Adjourned the meeting at 9:55 am





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 10th, 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 1st 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

ADHD

Parenting Classes

Victoria Reyna LPCS
Sarai Kuri, LPCS



ADHD Is Common and Often Overlooked

- ADHD affects about **1 in 9 children** (11.4%) nationally.
- In Texas, roughly 10% of children ages 3–17 have been **diagnosed** with ADHD
- **78%** of children with ADHD also face additional challenges like anxiety, learning differences, or behavioral issues
- Rates among Latino children may be **underreported** due to *stigma, access barriers, or cultural differences in recognition.*

What is el Faro?

A **FREE** Spanish-language Parent Behavior Training (PBT)
Course, created in partnership with the Duke Psychiatric
ADHD Department.



El Faro Course

- **Duration:** An 8-week course
- **Weekly Commitment:** 90 minutes per session
- **Total Hours:** 12 hours, conducted in Spanish

In addition to the classes, we provide a **79-page handbook** in Spanish that includes key highlights and homework assignments.

Furthermore, resources and videos will be shared between classes to enhance the learning experience.



Essential Insights for Parents

- **Diagnosis:** Parent understands and has the ability to explain to others what ADHD is.
- **Executive Function Skills:** The parent recognizes how ADHD symptoms impact their child's daily life.
- **ABC Model:** Familiarity with the Antecedent – Behavior – Consequence framework along with nine distinct strategies.
- **Emotion Regulation:** The parent identifies and practices effective self-regulation techniques.
- **School Empowerment and Supports:** The parent understands available support options, arranges them for their child, and ensures they are implemented.
- **Four Essential Parenting Fundamentals Videos:** Focus areas include technology, sleep, physical activity, and nutrition.

Why Parent Training? Why Now?

Untreated ADHD in children can lead to:

- Academic failure and school drop-out
- Strained family relationships
- Low self-esteem and anxiety/depression
- Risk of substance use and involvement with the juvenile justice system
- Ongoing difficulties in adulthood (employment, relationships, mental health)

But the good news? Early support for parents can change the trajectory.

Parent training helps caregivers understand behavior, build effective routines, and respond with tools, not just frustration.



What the Experts Say

Parent Training = First-Line Treatment

🧠 **According to the CDC and American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP):**

“Behavior therapy, particularly parent training in behavior management, is the first recommended treatment for children under 6 with ADHD.

For children over 6, it’s strongly recommended alongside medication.”

Why it works:

- *Builds consistency at home and school*
- *Empowers parents with practical tools*
- *Reduces behavior problems and increases positive interactions*

El Faro provides culturally responsive, evidence-based support in a bilingual group setting.





Our Goal with El Faro

We want to bring this parenting program completely **free of charge** to El Paso families navigating an ADHD diagnosis.

Through *El Faro*, families will receive:

- **High-quality ADHD parent training**
- A culturally relevant **cuaderno (workbook)**
- **Everyday tools** to support routines, emotions, and behavior
- **Lasting strategies** to strengthen family life

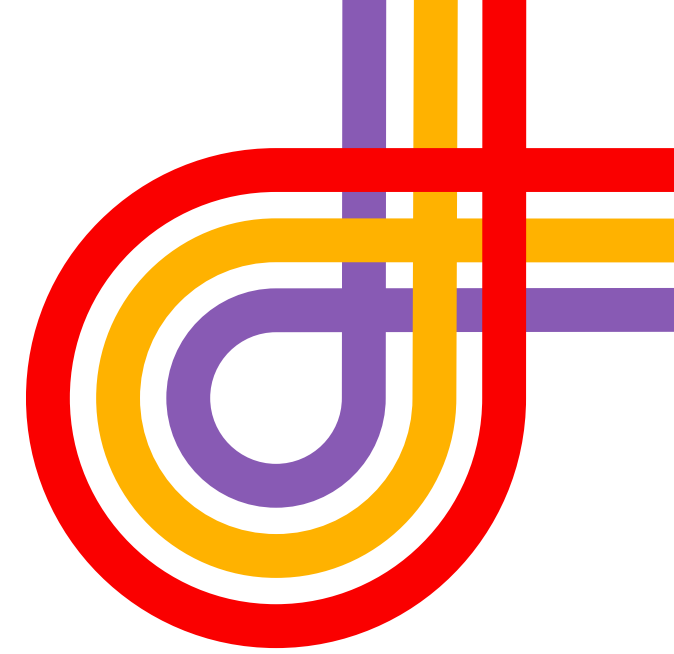
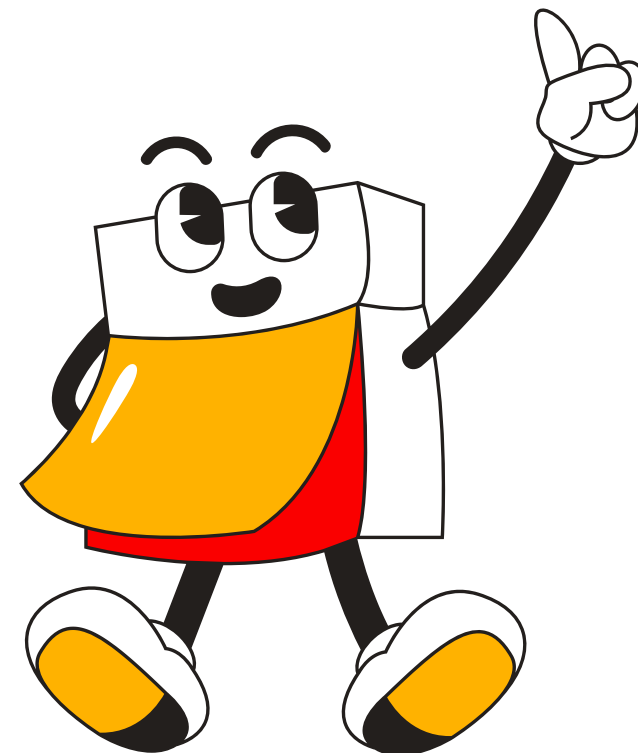
Our goal is to empower parents with practical, affirming support that improves both their child's well-being and the home environment.

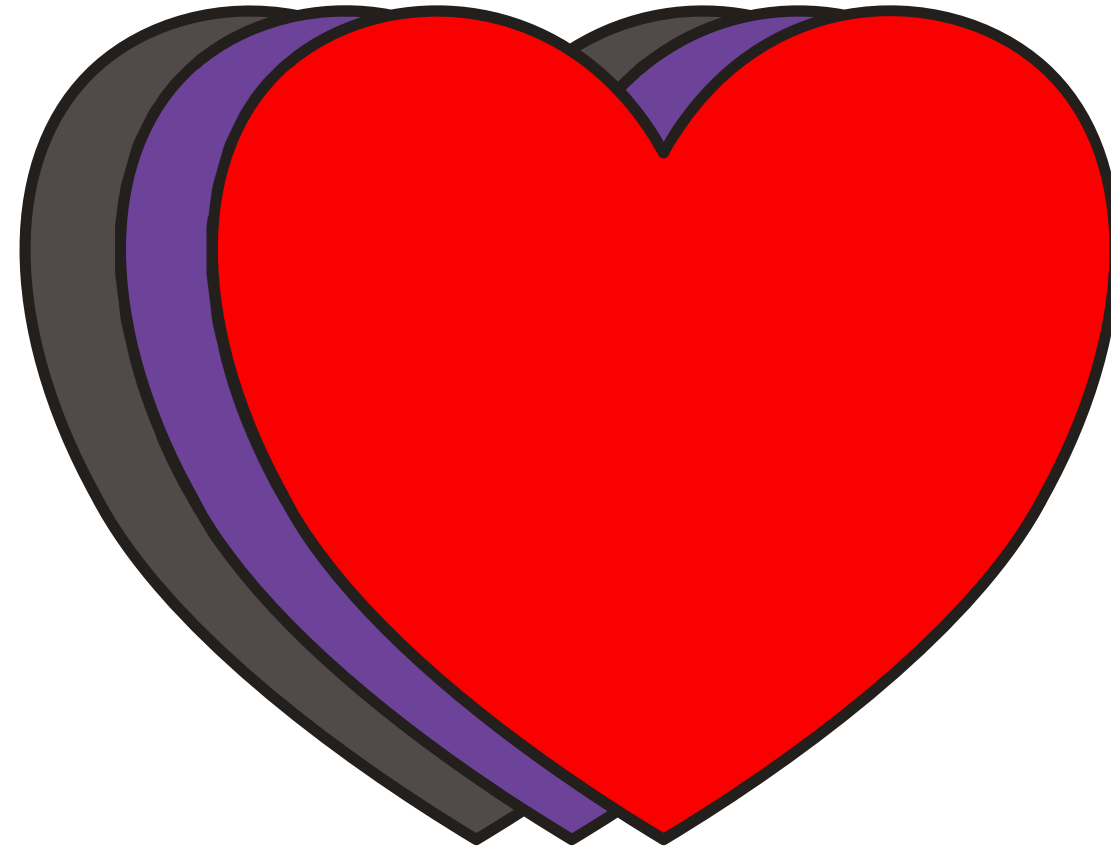
Feedback from families

“The strategies to use with my child were very helpful. Token economy to create a list of expectations. I learned that I need to break it down for her. And learned to celebrate her wins and not to expect her to do things perfectly.”

“I am happy with the experiences that other parents shared. I was able to relate and understand better my child's reaction to certain things. It opened my eyes to understanding that ADHD is a condition and that my daughter just needs to learn about her condition and find strategies to better her executive functioning.”

“I loved the El Faro course! I learned a lot, I identified with many mothers like me, with their worries and their pain, I felt understood, I cried when I heard other testimonies because it was like listening to myself. It was such a relief because I felt understood and supported.”





Thank you!



El Paso Center for Children



Family Advisory Council (FAC)

FAC Members



Chair:

- Diana Serrano

Secretary

- Ashely Valerio

Public Relations

- Andree Long – Parent Café Trainer of Trainers
- Elizabeth Parra

Youth Voice

- Corina Dechi -TNOYS – YALC (Young Adult Leadership Council)

Co-Chair

- Elizabeth Torres

Treasurer

- Dorian Serman – Presented at the Commissioners Court for the Fatherhood Proclamation in June 2025.

All FAC members draw on both lived experience and strong community ties to underserved populations.

FAC Updates



- Officers began serving in their roles in July 2025
- Officers are assigned to an El Paso Center staff “staff liaison” to help with the onboarding
- Monthly meetings are held the last Thursday: alternating between virtual and in person meetings
- September's meeting had 37 attendees

FAC Next Steps



- Recruit new members from the community
- Increase awareness of the FAC throughout the community
- Complete a Community Survey mid January 2026 - to elevate parent voice in the community.



Thank you