



Meeting Notes
January 22, 2026
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:

Jessica Andrews
Sharon Butterworth
David Cotchery
Sandra Day
Adrian Duran
Karmela Galicia
Cathy Gaytan
Gilda Gil
Daniely Gutierrez
Cynthia Henry
Linda Gonzalez-Hensgen
Vanessa Hill
Vanessa Leon
Violeta Lopez-Unzueta
Laura Marquez
Enrique Mata
Amanda Mathis-Ozer
Tom Moran
Amanda Munoz
Dr. Carmen Olivas-Graham
Rachel Quintanilla
Kathy Revtyak
Alejandra Sanchez

Representing:

El Paso Child Guidance Center
PdN Center at Meadows Institute
Veterans Outreach/American GI Forum
Paso del Norte Health Foundation
El Paso Center for Children
El Pasoans Fighting Hunger
El Paso Child Guidance Center
YMCA of El Paso
Region 19 Education Services Center
Paso del Norte Center of Hope
Family Service of El Paso
Project Vida
Heart Gallery of El Paso
United Way of El Paso
Paso del Norte Children's Development Center
Paso del Norte Center at Meadows Institute
EPISO/ Border Interfaith
Stephen A Cohen Clinic/Endeavors
El Paso Child Guidance Center
Socorro Independent School District and EPCC
Project Vida El Paso
El Paso Children's Grief Center
Family Service of El Paso

Lisa Saucedo	CASA of El Paso
Diana Serrano	El Paso Center for Children
Ivonne Tapia	Aliviane Inc/FLC Chair
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.

New Quantitative Data Summary (QDS):

Ms. Tapia summarized the meeting that was held on January 16, 2026, to review the new QDS report. She explained Paso del Norte Health Foundation's efforts to keep the Consortium and the community moving forward with united progress using the most up to date data available to Mr. Mata the briefly review slides from the new QDS and reinforced that the updates to the data build on the 2021 El Paso Behavioral Health System Assessment, and on the recommendations for action that are the basis for the current Leadership Council Action Plans. These new data, along with input from Leadership Council members, and other stakeholders, will help invigorate new life into the current action plans and prioritize system improvements for the next few years. Isidro Torres commented on how important updates to data; especially local data are to our community approaches to solutions. He explains that in his review of data and community input, the numbers nationally reported as 1 in 5 individuals experience a mental health condition, are looking more like 1 in 3 for this area. These differences can have a significant impact on how we prioritize actions. Mr. Mata commented that during the January 16th meeting data in one of the tables from Emergence Health Network has some discrepancies. The intent is to continue gathering feedback at all levels and present solutions along with the data points in a future public General Meeting of the Consortium.

Specialty Care Work Group

Ivonne Tapia, on behalf of Nicole Schiff, summarized recent information gathering activity since the last meeting. She explained that the group partners are still gathering additional information on residential treatment model options. Mr. Lachica added that while the residential treatment options for our community are a vital topic, there are other important services that fall within the Specialty Care arena that the PdN Center and others are investigating. For example, eating disorder treatment options and first offender programs. The group will be called together in the next few weeks.

First Connection Work Group and November 14th Hybrid CoCM Event

Laura Marquez summarized the activity from the last First Connection Work Group meeting held on Tuesday, December 2nd. She and Mr. Mata shared on behalf of April Corral, the highlights of improvements to the TCHAT program access. To support students and families in our community, Texas Tech is using calls to the TCHAT line from parents or guardians as opportunities for

education. Whether the call is handled by their clinical support team, program coordinator, or section supervisor, they ensure that each parent receives clear information about the program and the services available to them. They confirm if the campus has an active MOU for TCHAT services. If there is no active MOU, a contact is initiated with the campus/district to begin the MOU process. The Texas Tech Team provides the parent or guardian with the campus liaison's contact information. If the parent is unable to make contact, The Texas Tech Team reaches out to the specific campus with parent or guardian permission. They ask parents to advocate for their child to receive the free service and provide verbal consent for TCHAT. If the student is home schooled, the Texas Tech clinical support staff will complete a self-referral to begin services. In the end if the student and family advise they are encountering access barriers to TCHAT, the Texas Tech Team troubleshoots, and ensures they are appropriately referred, whether through a school liaison or self-referral option based on the situation at hand. Ms. Marquez added that efforts to follow up with providers after the November 14th education session continue.

The group entered into a discussion on developing a point of reference for educational and community events. Kathy Valencia recognized Laura Marquez and thanked her for her efforts to improve timely access to care. Ms. Marquez responded to questions from the group.

Isidro Torres commented that a community calendar had been explored by NAMI El Paso using an app called Air Table. Mr. Torres shared the following links:

- For an organization to submit events use the following link:
<https://airtable.com/app1WG2K3mRNxlvpd/shrf6sPY86WriTApp>
- To view the calendar that is shared with the public use the Following Link:
<https://airtable.com/app1WG2K3mRNxlvpd/shrFptvPwV0Td6MQR/iCal?timeZone=America%2FDenver&userLocale=en>
- To embed announcements into an organization's own website, use this link:
<https://airtable.com/app1WG2K3mRNxlvpd/shrFptvPwV0Td6MQR/embed>

There may be some testing needed to address any glitches. Mr. Torres offers to allow this tool to live on the NAMI El Paso account as needed.

Family Advisory Council

Kathie Valencia and Diana Serrano, the current Chair of the Family Advisory Council provided a brief overview of the work of the Family Advisory Council and how it is growing in strength with more than 30 members and now including several teens. Their next meeting is on February 10th. Adrian Duran commented that the advisory council leaders are provided with a small stipend. Ms Serrano explained that she and her officers are knocking on doors in outlying communities in the county such as Fabens, Tornillo and others. They commented that the group receives training on the 5 Protective Factors and other types of programs to help with outreach. Both responded to questions from the group.

Other Business

Call for Interim Charges – Mr. Mata informed that Senator Blanco released an email calling for interim charges in preparation for the 90th Legislative Session. The El Paso Delegation prepares proposed interim charges from the community and submits them for consideration of the Lieutenant Governor. Mr. Mata offered to assist with any recommendations for interim charges. They are due to the Senator by Friday, February 13th to provide sufficient time to review, compile the input received, and follow up as needed with any questions or clarifications. The following link is to be used for submission of a need: [Interim Charge Submission Form – Fill out form](#).

Socorro Independent School District Progress – Dr. Carmen Olivas-Graham shared a flyer with data to show that SISD is one of the highest STAR scoring districts in the state. She commented that the efforts to improve options for youth continues including the first offender program. A coordinator position for this program should be filled in the next few weeks. SISD had 40 applicants for the position. She explained that in addition to the first offender collaboration with the Juvenile Justice Center, one intervention that seems to be helping is allowing the youth to serve their penalty time at their campus in lieu of being moved to the exclusionary school. She states the district is seeing preventive benefits from this option. Dr. Graham responded to questions from the group.

Youth Crisis Outreach – Rhonda Russ shared an update on the Youth Crisis Outreach (YCOT) program. The expansion of the program is allowing EHN to reach out to more areas in the region. They are signing MOUs with outskirt districts to assist with justice involvement prevention especially with youth who have problems with truancy. Dr. Graham commented on the importance of continuing any preventive efforts in outskirt areas of the region.

El Paso Children's Grief Center New Location – Kathy Revtyak shared that after 30 years, the El Paso Children's Grief Center has moved into its new permanent location at 2616 Montana. She invites everyone to set aside Wednesday, February 25th from 10:30 – 12:00 to participate in the Grand Opening ceremony.

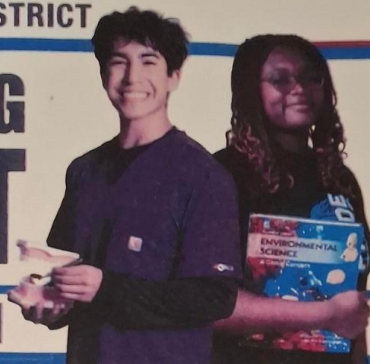
YMCA Celebrating 140 years of service – Gilda Gil informed the group that as she is working to revitalize the local YMCA, they will be celebrating the national milestone of 140 years of service. More information will be shared as activities develop in the year.

Adjourn – Ivonne Tapia Adjourned the meeting at 9:50 am



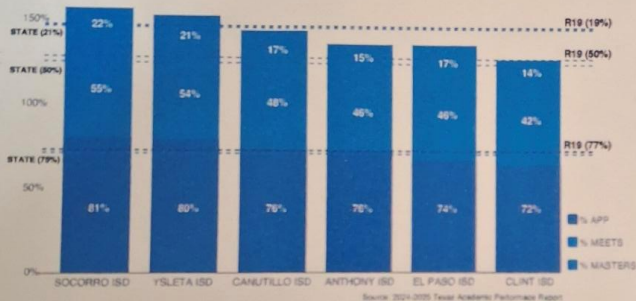
SOCORRO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

HIGHEST SCORING DISTRICT



IN THE REGION **THE NEXT CHAPTER IS OURS ALL IN**

2025 STAAR Performance – Top 6 Districts
2025 Overall STAAR Performance Level by District

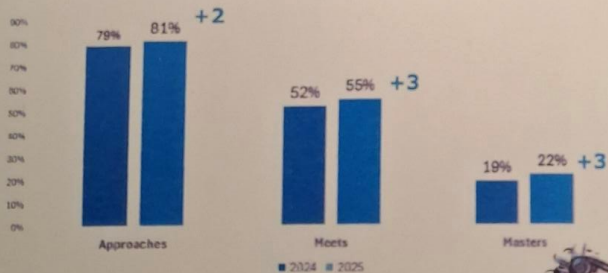


LARGEST SCHOOL DISTRICT IN TX TO EARN

POSTSECONDARY DISTINCTION DESIGNATION



2025 Socorro ISD STAAR 2-Year Data Comparison Overall



ENROLL NOW

Join Socorro ISD, the highest scoring district in El Paso. Enrollment is open all year to all students. Scan the QR code to learn more.

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

FLC General Meeting January 22 2026 Agenda:

-  **Welcome and Introductions**
-  **Comments on SAMHSA grant changes**
-  **Specialty Care Work Group**
-  **First Connection Work Group**
-  **New Quantitative Data Summary**
-  **Family Advisory Council**
-  **Other Business**
 -  **Legislative Interim Charges**
-  **Adjourn**



Comments on SAMHSA grant changes



Specialty Care Work Group



First Connection Work Group



New Quantitative Data Summary

El Paso County Behavioral Health Assessment: 2025 Quantitative Data Update Report Highlights

January 16, 2025

Highlights from the Full Report

Today, we will present updated data on El Paso's mental health needs and system use to inform breakout discussions on the community's future needs.

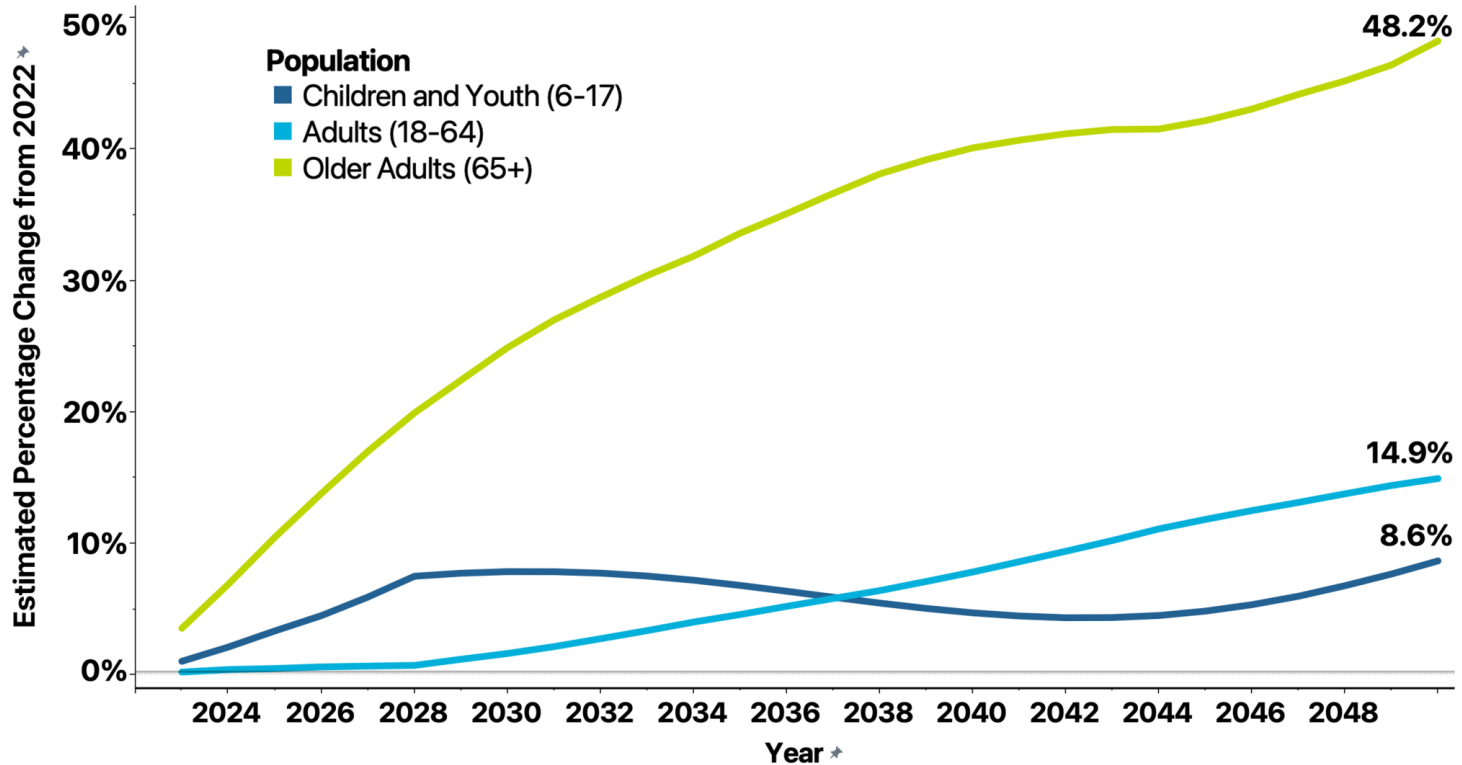
These data are highlights from the Meadows Institute's full report which includes updated data on the broader continuum of care for all age groups.

Demographics and Prevalence

Increasing Population:

- Growth is projected for all age groups through 2050, with the older adult population (65+ years) expected to grow by nearly 50%. However, El Paso's growth rate across all age groups (ages 6-17, 18-64, and 65+) is slower than the statewide projected population growth.

El Paso County Population Changes^{1, 2}



1. Population data from U.S. Census Bureau. (2023, December). American Community Survey 2018-2022 5-year data release. www.census.gov/data/developers/data-sets/acs-5year/2022.html
2. Population projections are generated using the American Community Survey 2018-2022 5-year estimates and expected rates of change from the Texas Demographer Population Projections Program, 2018: <https://demographics.texas.gov/data/tppepp/projections/>

Core Prevalence Data:

- In 2022, approximately 7,500 El Paso County children and youth had severe emotional disturbances, and about 29,000 adults had serious mental illnesses.

Rising Mortality Rates from Drug Overdose:

- The mortality rate from drug overdose / accidental poisoning increased by 81% between 2019 and 2023. Our data suggest:
- Access to care for substance use disorder (SUD) remains a challenge among El Pasoans - over half of youth with SUDs and 80% of adults with SUDs need but do not receive treatment. The high rates of untreated SUDs and comorbidity with mental illness indicate a critical need for integrated and accessible treatment services in the region; and,
- The reliance on self-pay for SUD-related emergency department encounters underscores the need for safety net providers and facilities to serve those with SUD.

Emergency Department (ED) and Psychiatric Inpatient Utilization

Shifts in Behavioral Health Related ED Utilization:

- ED visits declined by 14% for the overall population, despite population growth, beginning with the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Mental health-related ED visits declined by 16% between 2019 and 2022, but SUD-related encounters increased by 5%.
- Among children and youth, SUD-related ED visits increased by nearly 30%.

Disproportionate Distribution of ED Visits for Self-Pay Patients:

- More than one-third (34%) of primary psychiatric ED encounters were among self-pay patients, underscoring the need for safety net providers and facilities in the region.

An Overall Increase in Inpatient Psychiatric Capacity:

- El Paso's inpatient psychiatric capacity has increased slightly for children/youth (+16 beds) while adult capacity has declined (-9 beds). This is mostly due to increases in capacity at Rio Vista.

Strained Inpatient Psychiatric Capacity for Pediatrics in El Paso County:

- In 2022, only two facilities—El Paso Behavioral Health System and Rio Vista Behavioral Health—reported having dedicated pediatric psychiatric beds. These hospitals treated pediatric patients at 171% of their designated bed capacity, indicating that both hospitals routinely admitted more children and adolescents than they had pediatric beds available.
- The number of El Paso children/youth admitted to inpatient psychiatric beds increased by 32% between 2019 and 2022.
- Child and youth transfers from EDs to inpatient psychiatric beds more than doubled, rising 144% from 154 in 2019 to 376 in 2022.
- Only a small number of El Paso resident children and youth were admitted to non-El Paso psychiatric beds for inpatient care (<10) - a number that has remained stable since 2019. The few out-of-county inpatient placements reflect relatively stable access to local psychiatric beds for pediatric care.

Increase in Demand for Inpatient Care for Trauma-Related Conditions:

- Adult inpatient discharges related to trauma- and stressor-related disorders increased more than 600% between 2019 and 2022.

Summary Statement:

- Taken together, the data presented suggest a shifting landscape characterized by
 - population growth
 - increases in demand for
 - SUD and trauma-related conditions
 - dedicated inpatient space for treating children and youth clients
 - increases in mental health-related crises; and
 - expanded mental health workforce (most notably, psychologists)
- to treat a growing population of El Pasoans.



Other Business

Texas Legislative Session Interim Charges



 **NEXT MEETING**

 **ADJOURN**