



Meeting Notes

Tuesday, February 10, 2026
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. This meeting is set in a hybrid (both virtual and in person) format. 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, New Mexico Department of Health, Dona Ana County HHS, NAMI El Paso, Recovery Alliance/Punto de Partida, Paso del Norte Health Foundation, PdN Center at Meadows Institute, Centro San Vicente, UTEP Counseling Center, UTEP Social Work Department, and Centro de Salud Familiar La Fe.

Special Presentations:

CJD Criminal Justice Division Program: Grief and Trauma Support: Erica Bencomo, Engagement Coordinator with the Children's Grief Center of El Paso provided a thought provoking presentation on a new program offered by the Children's Grief Center. She explained the opportunities to assist individuals who have experienced trauma and justice involvement. She shared the criteria for participation in the program but also emphasized that this is one of numerous therapeutic options offered by the Children's Grief Center. Ms Bencomo 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:

Ms. Lizette Flores - La Fe Social Services shares that in partnership with the Area Agency on Aging, La Fe will be creating a support group for caregivers. For more information contact maria. carrillo maria.carrillo@lafe-ep.org .

NAMI El Paso updates:

- Our free-peer led support groups are ongoing! <https://www.namiep.org/support-groups/>
- NAMI El Paso Membership Meeting: Feb. 19
- Family-to-Family class starting Feb. 25 (in-person). 8-session educational program for adult family members, significant others, and friends of adults with mental health conditions.

- Family & Friends Seminar: Feb. 27. Free 90-minute presentation that informs and supports family members, partners, friends, and significant others who have loved ones with a mental health condition.

Website: <https://namielp.org/upcoming> to view our calendar for upcoming events and program registration. Phone: 915-778-5726; Email: office@namielp.org .

[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.

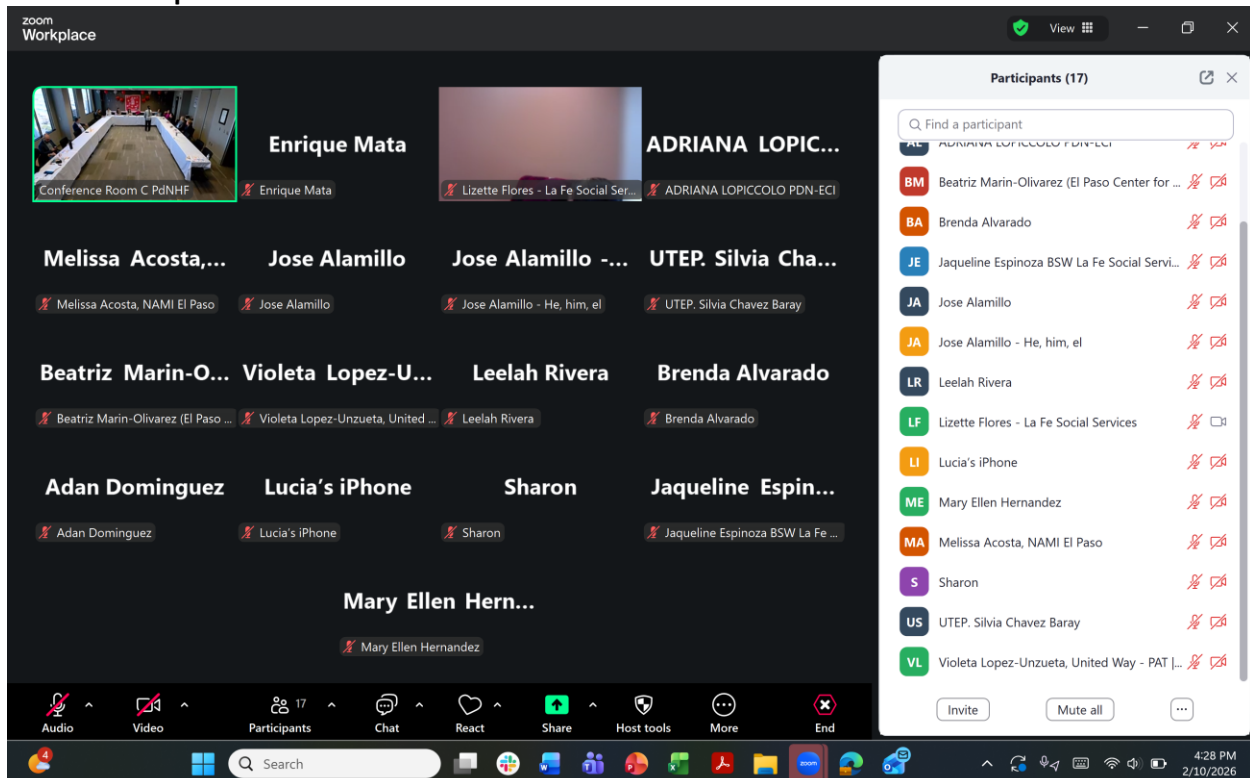
Flyers or other information may be included below as part of these notes. For more information, please visit: <https://healthypasodelnorte.org/brain-trust/> or contact Enrique Mata at 915-253-0287, emata@mmhpi.org , or Josue Lachica at jlachica@mmhpi.org

Next Meeting:

The Brain Trust now has a standing in person meeting time of 4:00 pm on the 2nd Tuesday of every other month.

The Next Brain Trust Network meeting is scheduled for 4:00 pm, Tuesday, April 14th at Paso del Norte Health Foundation, 221 N. Kansas, 19th Floor Meeting Room C. For more information contact Enrique Mata at 915-253-0287, emata@mmhpi.org, or Josue Lachica at jlachica@mmhpi.org .

Virtual Participant Screen shot and Conference Room Photos





WELCOME



CJD Criminal Justice Division Program: Grief and Trauma Support



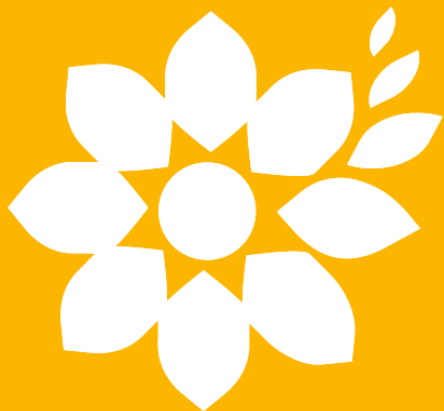
Erica Bencomo

Engagement Coordinator

Email- erica@cgcel Paso.com

Phone Number- 915-532-6004

New Location- 2616 Montana Ave. 79903



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Pre- Surver Brain Trust Presentation

Brain Trust Survey - Children's
Grief Center



A Beacon of Hope & Healing for Grieving Youth

Vision

We believe that no child should grieve alone and that every child should have access to healing, health, and hope through grief-informed communities.

Mission

We create compassionate and inclusive spaces that promote healing and well-being among grieving children, youth, and their families through community-based peer groups, individual and family services, and grief-informed education and advocacy.

VALUES

Inclusivity | Compassion | Integrity | Service | Wellness



Information on CJD Survivor Services

We are honored to offer support services for children and families who are grieving and/or who have been impacted by crime through the Office of the Governor Criminal Justice Division grant. These services are designed to promote healing, resilience, and connection in a safe and supportive environment. We offer a caring and compassionate space to help families navigate grief and healing together.



Who are Survivors of Crime

- **Caregiver/Youth/ Elder – Emotional, Physical Abuse, Neglect, Physical Assault, Sexual Assault, Sexual Abuse (Aggravated and Simple)**
- **Caregiver/Youth /Elder - Vehicular Victimization (Hit and Run, DUI/DWI Incidents)**
- **Caregiver/ Youth/ Elder - Mass Violence (e.g., mass shooting - Domestic/International)**
- **Domestic and/or Family Violence**
- **Bullying (Verbal, Cyber or Physical), Stalking, Harassment, Teen Dating Victimization, Child Pornography**
- **Human Trafficking (Sex or Labor)**
- **Kidnapping (Custodial or Non-Custodial)**
- **Burglary, Robbery or Identity Theft (Property, Financially, Ciber Crimes)**
- **Arson**
- **Terrorism (Domestic or International)**
- **Other – describe**



Grief and trauma are intertwined



For survivors of crime, grief is often complicated by trauma.

- The loss is sudden, violent, or intentional
- There may be fear, anger, or a shattered sense of safety
- Grief is not only about *who was lost*, but *how* the loss occurred

Survivors are grieving the person they lost *and* the loss of safety, control, and trust in the world.

National Child Traumatic Stress Network (NCTSN)

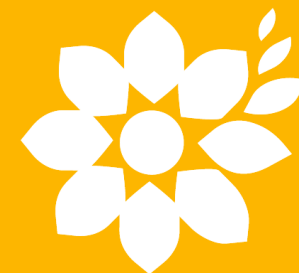


Grief and trauma are intertwined



- Crime is a **leading cause of traumatic loss and ongoing stress**
- Many youth and caregivers are **crime survivors**, even if the loss was unintentional
- Grief does not only follow death — it can follow:
 - Violence
 - Threats to safety
 - Sudden or preventable loss**Crime-related trauma often complicates the grieving process**

National Child Traumatic Stress Network (NCTSN)



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CGC Programs & Services

GRIEF SUPPORT & EDUCATION

1. Initial Phone Screening
2. Navigation (Information, Resources, & Referral)
3. Comprehensive Grief Assessment
4. Peer Grief Support Groups (Family Group Nights & Specialty Groups)
5. Good Grief Summer Camp
6. Grief-Informed Training & Consultation

CGC is the region's only Childhood Bereavement Center
CGC uniquely specializes in the developmental needs of grieving youth.

Childrens Grief Center of El Paso





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- **No cost to families**
- **Caregiver Group (English)**
- **Caregiver Group (Spanish)**
- **Young Adult Group**
- **Teens (15-18)**
- **Tweens (12-14)**
- **Middles (9-11)**
- **Littles (5-8)**
- **Young Children (3-4)**

CGC Services

GRIEF THERAPY

Grief-Specific Therapy

- Individual & Group Formats-
- Evidence-based: **Multidimensional Grief Therapy, Trauma & Grief Component Therapy**
- Trauma & Grief Informed

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Childrens Grief Center of El Paso



2024 Impact, By The Numbers

Bereaved Children Served - 850

85 % - With Improved Coping Skills

Total Individuals Served - 1046

86 %- With Improved Connection

Households Served - 671

94 %- With Improved Mental Health

Sessions Provided - 749

Encounters Provided - 5373

Volunteer Service Hours - 1040

Grief Education & Training Hours Provided – 65 hours

Schools Served - 115



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Children's Grief Center of El Paso

National Resources

- Dougy Center | www.dougy.org
- This is an excellent website with information on supporting children of all ages. They also provide handouts and other resources to support teachers and administrators respond sensitively to students in grief concerning death by suicide.
- National Alliance for Grieving Children | www.nacg.org
- This is the go-to resource for all things related to children and grief. While a great resource, it includes a lot of information, as it addresses family needs and national resources.
- National Center for School Crisis & Bereavement
 - www.schoolcrisiscenter.org
- New York Life Foundation Bereavement Support
 - www.newyorklife.com/foundation/bereavement-support
- The Dougy Center Recursos en Espanol de Duelo
 - www.dougy.org/grief-support-resources/duelo-apoyo-y-grupos



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THANK YOU!



