



Meeting Notes

Tuesday, April 16, 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: El Paso County Juvenile Justice Center, El Paso Center for Children, El Paso Child Guidance Center, El Paso Children's Grief Center, NAMI El Paso, Paso del Norte Health Foundation, PdN Center at Meadows Institute, Centro San Vicente, Charlie Health, and Centro de Salud Familiar La Fe.

Special Presentations:

Emergence Health Network Presentation on Celebrating 60 Years serving El Paso: Rene Hurtado, Chief of Staff for Emergence Health Network provided a presentation that reflected on the past 60 years that the Local Mental Health Authority has served El Paso County residents. He shared successes and areas where gaps exist as well as a vision for the next phase of progress. Mr. Hurtado responded to questions from the group. Presentation slides are included with these notes.

Charlie Health: Bryanna Lujan, Clinical Outreach Manager for Charlie Health provided a thought provoking presentation on how the Charlie Health system provides quality telehealth services in complement with existing providers and program in the community. Ms Lujan reinforced the wide range of service options and that the organization prefers connecting with local providers and optimizing options for clients. Ms Lujan responded to questions from the group. For more information visit: [Behavioral Health IOP for Kids, Teens & Adults | Charlie Health](#)

Updates:

Maria Carrillo called for the group to share community updates. Highlights include:

The El Paso Child Crisis Center is hosting a "Day in Their Life" gathering on April 24th. The flyer with information on the event is included with these notes.

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

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, June 16th 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 .



Emergence Health Network

2025

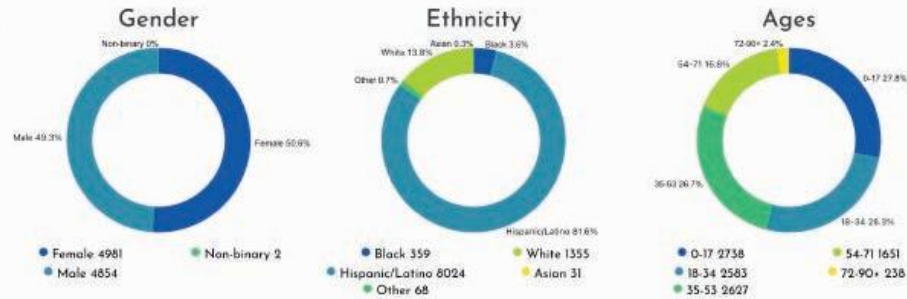
Annual Report

Number of people served through EHN programs:
23,928

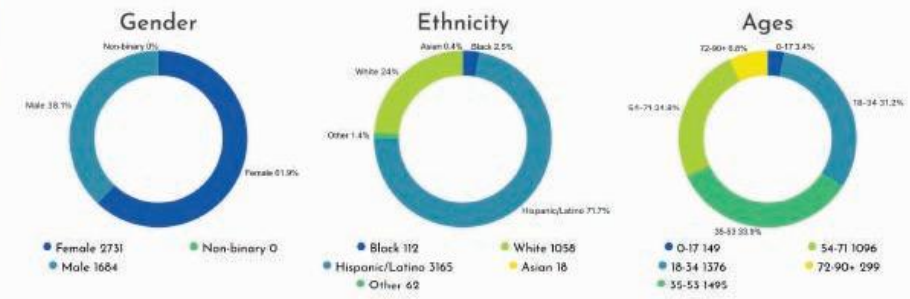
Demographics

Number of individuals served in the El Paso County Jail facilities:
12,000

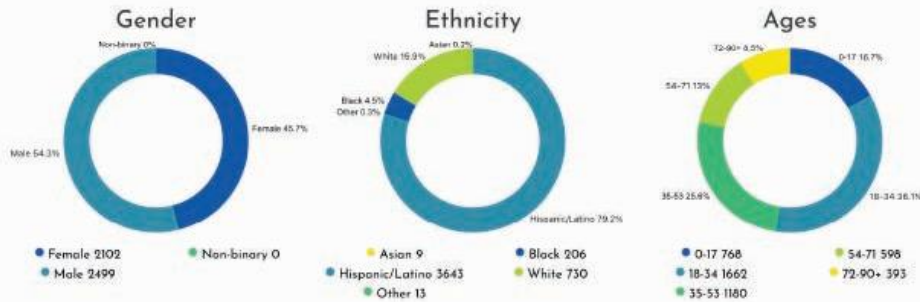
Behavioral Health - Total individuals served: 9,837



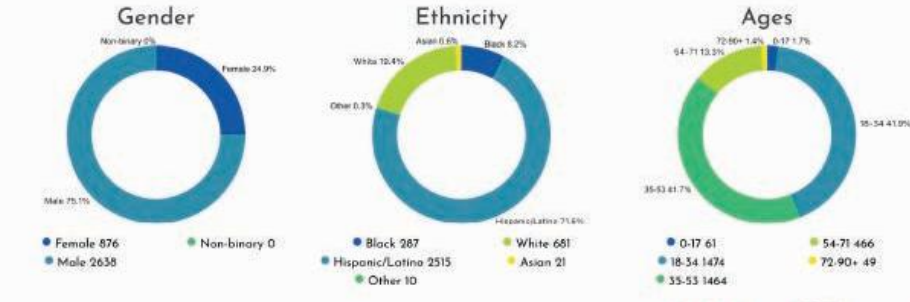
Collaborative Care - Total individuals served: 4,415



Crisis and Emergency - Total individuals served: 4,601



Diversion - Total individuals served: 3,514



Crisis Intervention Recognized



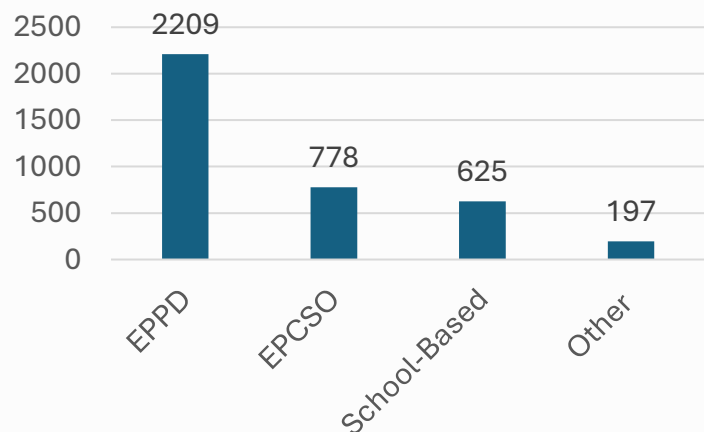
EHN's Crisis Intervention Team was honored with the *Meritorious Service Award* at the 2025 El Paso Police Department Annual Awards Ceremony for outstanding service to the community.



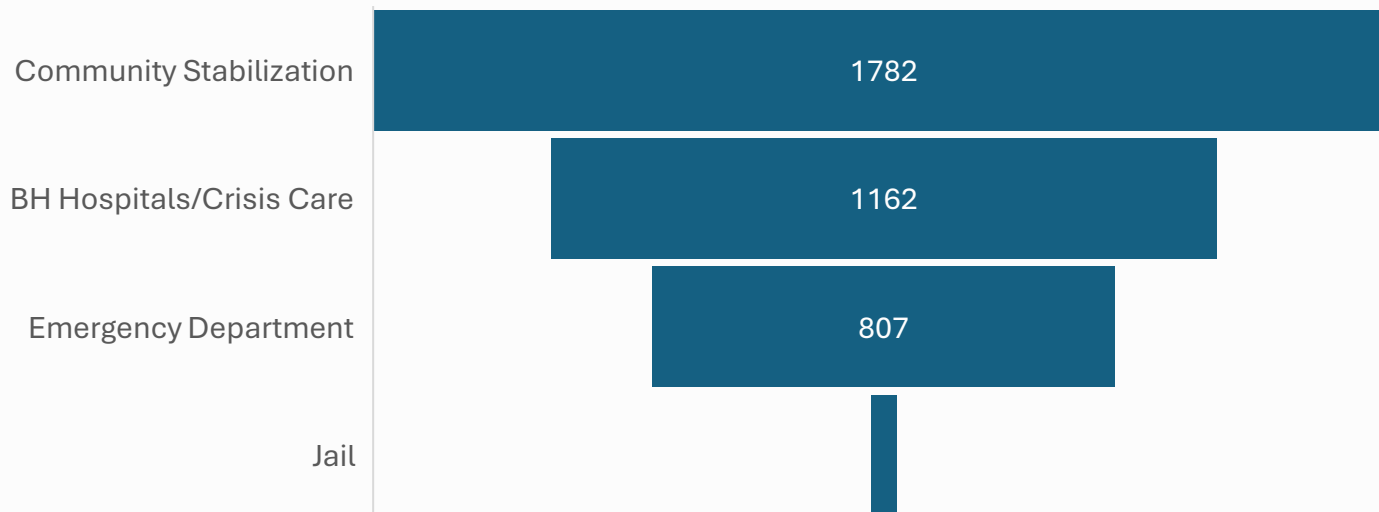
Crisis Intervention Team Response FY25

3,809 Crisis Encounters in FY25

Encounters By Program



Outcomes of Crisis Encounters



Only 45 of 3,809 encounters resulted in jail booking



Unveiling Mobile Crisis Unit



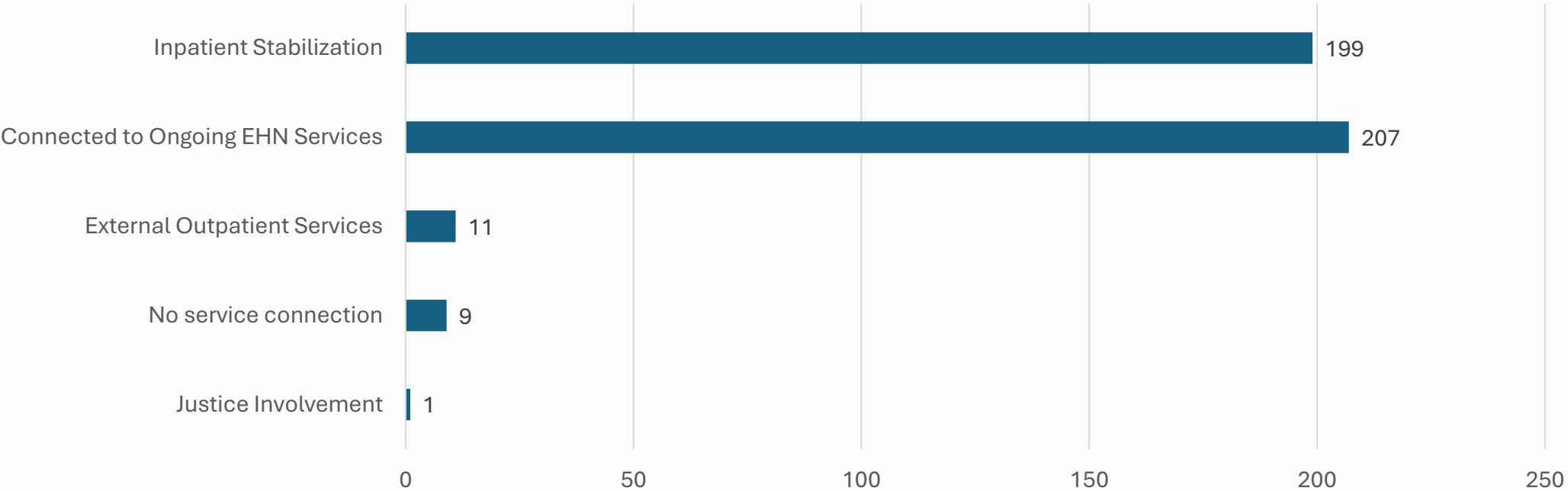
- EHN introduced El Paso's first-ever Mental Health Mobile Crisis Units (MCUs) which are state-of-the-art "clinics on wheels," equipped with advanced technology and satellite internet to ensure reliable connectivity, even in remote areas.
- The MCU's mark a vital step forward in reaching youth who are experiencing a mental health crisis and getting them the support they need right away.



Youth Mobile Crisis Unit Response

503 Unduplicated Youth Received Services During FY25

YCOT Episodes by Follow-Up Referral Type





School-based CIT Expansion



- EHN expanded its School-based Crisis Intervention Teams to now include San Elizario ISD.
- School-based CIT is also serving students in EPISD, Canutillo ISD, and Socorro ISD.
- This collaboration is dedicated to enhancing mental health crisis response and compassionate care for students in our communities.



School-based Mental Health Expansion

EHN's School based Mental Health Program expanded in 2025, now serving students across 20 campuses in El Paso ISD, Canutillo ISD, and Fabens ISD.



- Alderete Middle
- Canutillo Middle
- Canutillo High
- Northwest Early College



- Fabens Elementary
- Fabens Middle
- Fabens High
- O'Donnell



- Moya Elementary
- Charles Murphree Elementary
- Canyon Hills Middle
- Magoffin Middle
- Raymond Telles Academy
- Young Women's Academy
- Austin High
- Bowie High
- El Paso High
- Franklin High
- Irvin High
- Jefferson High



9-8-8 Day



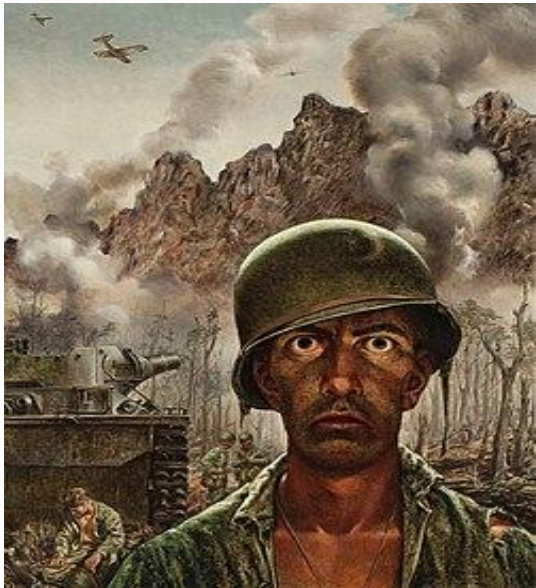
EHN marked 988 Day through social media and community outreach, featuring staff pets wearing 988 bandanas and a client led rock painting project promoting the 988 Lifeline.

Dental Screenings



EHN partnered with the Texas Tech Dental Oral Health Clinic in El Paso to provide free dental screenings for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities who often face barriers to dental care, including communication challenges and sensory sensitivities.

Tom Lea Artwork Featured at Veterans One-Stop Center (VOSC)



- In November 2025, EHN partnered with the Tom Lea Institute to host the traveling exhibit “Brushstrokes from the Frontlines.”
- This exhibit offered a portrayal of the emotional toll of combat and have been used by mental health professionals to help veterans process experiences related to Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).



Multi-Media Campaign



- Launched a bilingual multi-media advertising campaign to highlight the crucial work of its mental health professionals and support staff in assisting families with their mental health and substance use needs.
- This vital work not only transforms lives but also saves them.



Going Above and Beyond



Ashley Peterson

EHN's Deputy Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, Ashley Peterson, was recognized as one of the *40 Under 40 Leaders in Behavioral Health* by the Healthcare Division of Willing to Work Harder Media.



Behavioral Health East Campus



- In the Fall of 2025, EHN announced the upcoming construction of a new, state-funded, multi-million-dollar Behavioral Health Campus in East El Paso.
- This major investment will enhance access to critical mental health services.
- The groundbreaking of the Eastside Behavioral Health Campus is expected in late spring 2026.



Behavioral Health East Campus

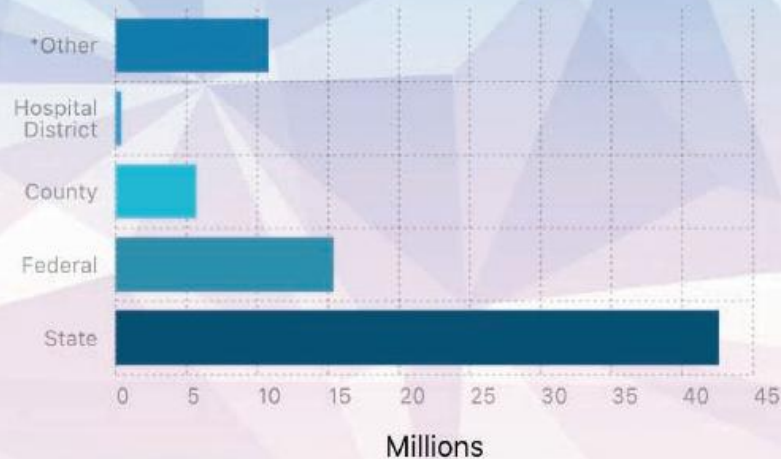
- Youth & Adult Extended Observation Units
- Youth & Adult Short-Term Crisis Residential Unit
- Diversion Center for Adults
- Aimed at reducing unnecessary incarceration & emergency room utilization
- Outpatient Behavioral Health Clinic
- Expansion of Mobile Crisis Outreach Team



Emergence Health Network

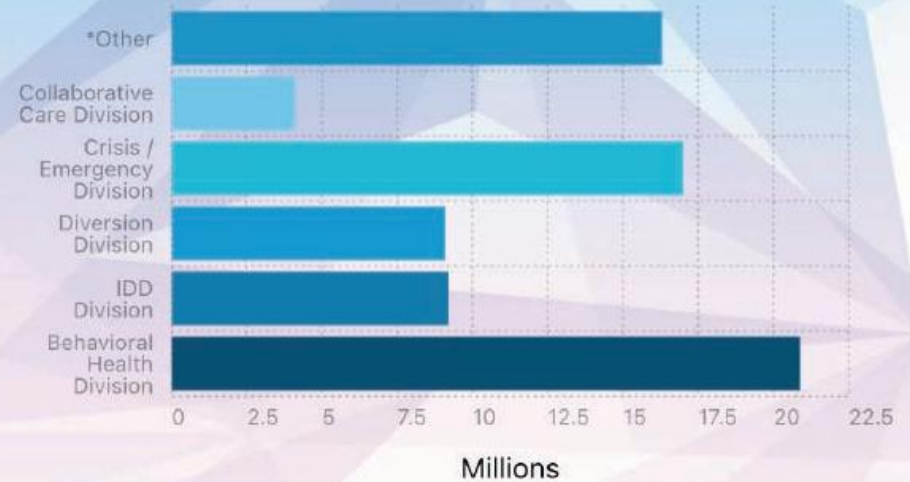
Revenue & Expenditures

TOTAL REVENUE - 74.9 million



**This includes primary Fee for Service Revenue i.e. private insurance, and other*

TOTAL EXPENDITURES - 76.6 million



**This includes expenditures on other EHN services and other operating costs.*

2025
Annual Report



Community Needs Assessment

EHN has completed the 2026 Community Needs Assessment which describes the behavioral health and intellectual/developmental disability (IDD) landscape and identifies opportunities for improved service and outcomes.

Components

- **External Data:** State and local reports.
- **Internal Data:** EHN operational metrics and performance reports.
- **Primary Input:** Stakeholder interviews and focus groups.

This document will serve as a tool for EHN Board of Trustees and Leadership Team to design the system of care for the next three years.



Community Needs Assessment

Finding 1 – High Need for Behavioral Health Services

- High prevalence of serious mental illness (SMI), depression, and substance use across all age groups.
- The high need for behavioral health services across EHN's service area is reflected in both population-level risk indicators and heavy reliance on EHN's services and crisis response system.
- **Critical Concern:** Despite strong crisis infrastructure, suicide mortality is increasing, necessitating a shift toward rapid follow-up, early intervention and ongoing community-based services.



Community Needs Assessment

Finding 2 – High-Needs Populations

Justice-Involved Individuals:

- ***Landscape***: Strong existing continuum across multiple Sequential Intercept points.
- ***Gap***: Reentry supports are underbuilt, specifically in housing, benefits activation, and transition planning.

Individuals with IDD:

- ***Landscape***: A growing, largely Spanish-speaking population.
- ***Gap***: Need for community-integration supports, including employment pathways, social connection, and end-of-life planning.



Community Needs Assessment

Finding 2 – High-Needs Populations (cont.)

Youth and Families:

- **Landscape:** Addressing the persistent gaps in the children's continuum of care.
- **Gap:** Enhancing prevention and early intervention for adolescents and transition-age youth who show elevated risk factors.

Veterans & Military Families:

- **Landscape:** Targeted capacity-building to meet the unique needs of military service members in the El Paso region.
- **Gap:** Strengthen cross-system coordination to address wait times for services, stigma/confidentiality concerns, and high levels of unmet social needs.



Community Needs Assessment

Finding 3 – Behavioral Health Disparities

Significant behavioral health disparities persist across EHN's service area.

In a majority-Hispanic border community with elevated poverty and social risk factors, individuals may experience barriers related to access to selected services, stigma, and insurance coverage.



Community Needs Assessment

Finding 4 – Capacity Drivers & Constraints

EHN's ability to sustain and expand services is shaped by a small set of core capacity drivers—staffing, funding, and data/technology infrastructure—that can either enable growth or create binding constraints across the continuum of care.

Primary Constraints

- **Workforce Shortages**
- **Reimbursement and Parity Challenges**
- **Limited flexible/braided funding to sustain a full continuum of care**

Looking Ahead

- Ground-Breaking of Behavioral Health East Campus
– Mid-Summer
- Preparing for the 90th Legislative Session
 - Workforce Investments
 - Youth Programs
 - Sustainability of Programs
- Mind Lab Opening at the Boys & Girls Club of El Paso





Emergence Health Network

2025

Annual

Report

ehnnannualreport.org



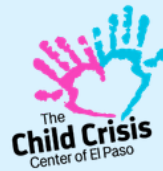
A DAY IN THEIR LIFE

Presented By



TEXAS
Department of Family
and Protective Services

Safe children and adults.
Strong families and communities.
Stronger Texas.



Upbring
Foster In Texas

**SEE THE DAY.
FEEL THE JOURNEY.
CHANGE THE STORY.**

About Our Event!

Children's lives are changed every day as they navigate the realities of the foster care system. Their experiences are unlike any other.

Join us as we walk through a day in "their life" and discover meaningful ways you can make a difference.

**RSVP
TO SELECT A
TIME TO ATTEND**



Details

Date ◀

April 24, 2026

Time ◀

10am-2pm

Location ◀

Child Crisis Center of El Paso
2100 N. Stevens
El Paso TX 79930

Contact : ◀

Jenny Garcia
(915)562-7955

"PROTECTING OUR CHILDREN, PRESERVING OUR FUTURE"

Website

<https://childcrisiscenterofelpaso.org>

