



BORDER CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH COLLABORATIVE

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Border Children's Mental Health Collaborative: Ready, Set, Go!

Gearing up to bring our children home to safe, resourceful, caring, effective, environments where they can thrive in their own homes and communities.

GOVERNANCE TEAM

County Judge Anthony Cobos
Principal Investigator

Judge Alfredo Chavez
65th District Court

Commissioner Dan Haggerty
El Paso County Commissioner

Chief Alberto Alvarez
Chief of Juvenile Probation

Diana Barajas
Regional Director of El Paso
Child Protective Services

Jaime Barceau
EP Rehabilitation Center
Director

Norma Olivas
Parent Partner Juvenile
Probation Department

Mary Ann Landon
Parent Partner El Paso Child
Protective Services

Florence Fowler
Parent Partner BCMHC

Lorraine Galvan
Ysleta del Sur Pueblo

Jessica Acker
Ft. Bliss's Exceptional Families
Program

Terry Pasqualone
Domestic Relations Office

Maria Zaragoza
Foster Family Association

Wesley Temple
Region XIX

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Child Welfare Board Board

BCMHC TEAM

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Debbie Camacho
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Vicky Maestas
Youth Coordinator ext 222

Luther Marcena
Communications, Training
& Technical Assistance
Coordinator ext 223

Maria Kranz-Martinez
Parent Liaison ext 235

Esteban Zubia
Cultural & Linguistics
Coordinator ext 231

Ben Swann
Social Marketer ext 231

\$10,000,000.00 AWARDED TO THE EL PASO COUNTY YOUTH SERVICES CENTER!

Championing the efforts of the Border Children's mental Health Collaborative (BCMHC), El Paso County Judge and Principal Investigator: Anthony Cobos, Commissioner Dan Haggerty, the Governance Team, several other agencies and parent partners, united their efforts to promote the need for the EL PASO COUNTY YOUTH SERVICES CENTER (EPCYSC). After several Commissioner's Court meetings a decision was made to issue a certificate of obligation bond for \$10,000,000 to build the EPCYSC which will be led by the BCMHC. This facility will host an array of child serving agencies in one centralized family friendly building that will provide the convenience of a "one stop shop" for families in El Paso County that are in need of mental health services and that previously had to travel all over the County from one agency to another to receive these services.

The County's Purchasing Department is currently in the process of taking bids for the development of this facility.

THE PARENT ACADEMY GRADUATES ITS FIRST CLASS!

Maria Kranz, Parent Liaison.

We would like to thank all the Parents and Organizations who participated in the First Annual Parent Academy, which focused on Children's Mental Health. This project was lead by Norma Olivas, Lydia Hernandez, & Maria Kranz-Martinez. Special thanks to Commissioner Veronica Escobar for taking the time from her busy schedule to present the certificates of completion to all parents graduating from the Academy. These parents took their time and made great efforts and sacrifices to complete the eight week course. CONGRATULATIONS!!!!



NEW BCMHC STAFF MEMBERS

The Border Children's Mental Health Collaborative is happy to welcome Esteban Zubia and Erica Peralta to our staff!!! Erica is our new Case manager, and Esteban is our new Cultural & Linguistics Coordinator, both have extensive experience in their fields and are assets to our organization.

Esteban Zubia, Cultural & Linguistics Coordinator.

I have been an advocate for children and families for the past 20 years and feel very fortunate to have the opportunity in continuing my work assisting youth and families overcome some barriers faced in their lives through the Border Children's Mental Health Collaborative.

My responsibility to the families and to the BCMHC is to serve as a resource to the system of care on cultural and linguistic competence, organizational change and cross cultural practice. My job is also to serve as a bridge between system of care and cultural communities, resources, families and youth, providers, community agencies and other stakeholders and to create mechanisms to receive cultural community input that informs the design and implementation of the system of care.



It is my privilege to work with individuals within our staff with hearts and souls that never look back, but push forward to help the families we serve.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES ON THE GO!

Vicki Maestas, Youth Coordinator.



BCMHC have been very active the last few months. I had the pleasure of attending "Helping America's Youth" featuring Mrs. Laura Bush, with two youth in our program, in December. This conference was by invitation only, with invitations coming directly from the White House. We traveled to Dallas and spent two day at the conference. The event was

filled with information, an evening reception and on the final day Mrs. Bush spoke to the youth. The holidays were filled with family dinners, Christmas parties and daily activities. The week between Christmas and New Year's Day the youth enjoyed daily field trips, including bowling, movies, and starting in January we began art expression with the El Paso Art Museum. This eight week session was a tremendous success and the youth that participated were able to find hidden talent and abilities. Special thanks to Dr. Michael Tomor for opening the doors to this project and Diane Vera for assisting in setting up the program and helping assure that everything ran smoothly. Our youth have also been participating in community service projects. Global Youth Project Service day found us at Ascarate Park at 7:00 a.m. working with other youth in our community to help clean and paint one of El Paso's finest family parks.

Summer is moving in fast and furious and BCMHC is planning on many weekly events for this time. Events will include art expression, focus groups and field trips. Summer will be filled with FUN, FUN, and FUN!!!!

OUR WEBSITE IS HERE!

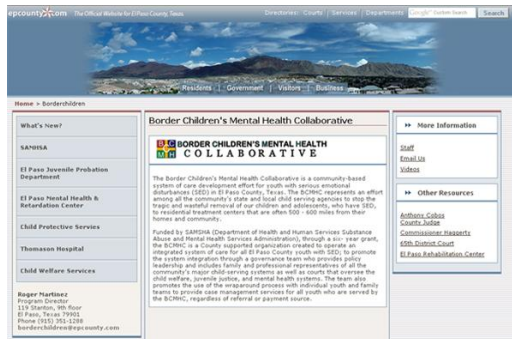
Luther Marcena, Communications, Training, & Technical Assistance Coordinator.

Our website is currently hosted at El Paso County's Web. The address is:

<http://www.epcounty.com/borderchildren>

We are very excited about this endeavor.

We also have a BLOG site that contains Blogs on BCMHC news, youth and parent activities, BCMHC calendar of events and so on. Visit us by going to the official website, then clicking on "what's new", and then choose which BLOG you wish to visit. Check them all!!!



Caring for every child's mental health by providing an effective community-based multi-agency collaboration that is child centered and family focused

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**BCMHC CARE
MANAGEMENT STAFF**

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Care Manager ext 12557



FROM THE DESK OF THE PROJECT DIRECTOR

**Promoting Healthy Minds
and Healthy Children**



Roger Martinez, Project Director.

First of all, I would like to thank the BCMHC Governance Board, Community Partners and the El Paso community at large for allowing me to steer this initiative through a life changing journey I will never forget! So much has happened since October. Most importantly, 50 children and their families have been provided services through the BCMHC. These families were maintained together and did not need to leave town for services! Though a combined effort between the youth and families, care management, youth coordinator and parent liaison; wrap around plans have been effective and families are the driving force behind their treatment. A cost analysis was conducted with the following results:
If the child would have been placed in RTC

Youth in RTC	Billing Days	Daily Rate	Total
50	8,124	\$126.49	\$1,027,604.76
Youth in BCMHC	Billing Day	Daily Rate =	Total
50	8,124	\$40.00	\$ 324,960.00
Local taxed dollars saved			\$ 702,644.76

All kinds of services are being provided to the youth and family. Again that of their "Voice and Choice". The traditional services to include Doctor's visits, medication management, and therapy to non-traditional services which consist of mentoring, tutoring, art classes and support groups. Our families were also treated to a Thanksgiving and Christmas Celebration, where all received holiday food baskets. The Vista Del Sol Church opened their doors to the Firehouse Youth Center for our activities free of charge! The El Paso Museum of Art provided Art Expression Classes throughout the winter months. Youth and mentors attended this 9 week program and found it to be very beneficial. A Parent's Academy was conducted for our families through the El Paso Rehab Center; Sun West's Parent Partner Norma Olivas and our Parent Liaison Maria Kranz. A specialized curriculum dealing with Children's Mental Health Issues was created for this academy. We celebrated with our first Parents Academy graduation on May 21, 2008 with a luncheon and presentation of Certificates of Completion. Then National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day was a Success! Approximately 500 individuals attended the event. Children's Mental Health Awareness was evident through the Celebration of Social Services, our Communities rich multi-culture and the blessing of the land by the Mothers of our Community for the \$10,000,000.00 El Paso County Youth Services Center. Agencies that will be housed in the Youth Services Center were represented at the event. They also provided free games and activities for the children to participate in.

Our cultural events included the Bowie High School Mariachi Band, Ysleta Del Sur Pueblo Social Dancers and the Multi-generational Mexican Folklorico Group from San Elizario. A Special tribute was held in memory for those individuals we have lost to mental illness. Ms. Denise Baisley, soloist for the Destiny Choir performed "His Eye is on the Sparrow" as two hundred doves were released signifying the spirits of those who have passed away. The highlight of the event was the blessing of the land. Sister Ida Hooper along with 40 mothers of our community united in prayer, blessing the soil brought from the proposed land site and placed in a piece of Mexican pottery. This piece of pottery with the blessed soil along with photos of the event will incased at the Youth Services Center. At this time, we are diligently working on next years Budget. All is looking very well.

**"Keep the Faith"
One Team, No Limits.**

**What Is Cultural and Linguistic
Competence?**

Definitions:
Because of shifting demographic trends in the United States, managed care plans need to change in order address the needs of multi-ethnic members. To help, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) commissioned development of two guides: [Planning Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services](#) and [Providing Oral Linguistic Services](#) (select for summaries). The guides use the definitions below.

Linguistic Competence: Providing readily available, culturally appropriate oral and written language services to limited English proficiency (LEP) members through such means as bilingual/bicultural staff, trained medical interpreters, and qualified translators.

Cultural Competence: A set of congruent behaviors, attitudes, and policies that come together in a system or agency or among professionals that enables effective interactions in a cross-cultural framework.¹

Cultural and Linguistic Competence: The ability of health care providers and health care organizations to understand and respond effectively to the cultural and linguistic needs brought by the patient to the health care encounter.²

Cultural competence requires organizations and their personnel to:

- * Value diversity.
- * Assess themselves.
- * Manage the dynamics of difference.
- * Acquire and institutionalize cultural knowledge.
- * Adapt to diversity and the cultural contexts of individuals and communities served.

References

1 Cross et al. 1998. Towards a Culturally Competent System of Care: A Monograph on Effective Services for Minority Children Who Are Severely Emotionally Disturbed. Washington DC: CASSP Technical Assistance Center, Georgetown University Child Development Center.
2 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Minority Health. 2000. Assuring Cultural Competence in Health Care: Recommendations for National Standards and an Outcomes-Focused Research Agenda. <http://www.omhrc.gov/clas/finalpo.htm> Accessed January 17, 2003.

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