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El Paso Behavioral Health Consortium Helps Launch Statewide Campaign and Shares Community Progress on Improving Behavioral Health needs of El Paso Residents

Emphasis on community efforts to shed stigma and negative bias associated with Mental Illness

The El Paso Behavioral Health Consortium will convene its annual Behavioral Health Community Summit to report progress on efforts to improve the behavioral health system in El Paso County and address gaps in the current system of care. The summit will also set the stage for the El Paso launch of the [Okay to Say](#) statewide campaign created to help residents across Texas start conversations about behavioral health issues.

“No individual or family should be isolated when confronted with a behavioral health problem, so reducing the negative bias often associated with mental illnesses is very important when addressing what needs to be done to improve the services these individuals receive,” said Sharon Butterworth, a mental health advocate and board chair of Paso del Norte Health Foundation. “We are making progress as a community and we are excited to share all those details at the summit. We have made a difference and during the next few years we will continue collaboration with local organizations to implement even more positive changes.”

“A lot of work has been done since the Behavioral Health Consortium was established, in fact during the 85th Legislative Session in Austin, state leaders also sent a strong message that mental health must not be ignored. That support is vital, but now we need the community to take this initiative to the next level and make it Okay to talk about mental illness,” said Kristi Daugherty, CEO Emergence Health Network. “The lack of acceptance often keeps people from getting the treatment they need. That must stop because behavioral health is just as important as keeping your heart healthy or managing diabetes.”

Keynote speakers include:

- State Representative Joe Moody, District 78, Vice Chair of the House Select Committee on Mental Health
- Coby Chase, Vice President for External Affairs, Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute

El Paso Behavioral Health Consortium Summit/Campaign Launch

Wednesday, August 23, 2017

8 a.m. – 12 p.m.

El Paso Community College Administrative Service Center Auditorium

9050 Viscount Blvd.

Special Guest Speaker:

El Paso Behavioral Health Consortium’s Executive Committee includes:

- Sharon Butterworth, Mental Health Advocate
- Dr. Emilia Campos, Veterans Administration El Paso
- Zulema Carrillo, El Paso Psychiatric Center
- Jacob Cintron, University Medical Center El Paso
- Kristi Daugherty, Emergence Health Network
- Chrystal Davis, Emergence Health Network
- Dr. J. Manuel de la Rosa, Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center El Paso
- Sally Deitch, The Hospitals of Providence
- Veronica Escobar, El Paso County Judge
- Annette Gutierrez, Rio Grande Council of Governments
- Cathy Gaytan, El Paso Child Guidance Center
- Cindy Hernandez, Emergence Health Network
- Tasha Hopper, The Hospitals of Providence
- Dr. Richard Lange, Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center El Paso
- Enrique Mata, Paso del Norte Health Foundation
- Nellie Mendoza, NAMI El Paso
- Dr. Diana Natalicio, The University of Texas at El Paso
- Dr. Tewiana Norris, Emergence Health Network
- Victor Talavera, Emergence Health Network
- Ivonne Tapia, Aliviane
- Richard Wiles, El Paso County Sheriff’s Office
- Dr. John Wiebe, The University of Texas at El Paso
- Tracy Yellen, Paso del Norte Health Foundation