

Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute

Comprehensive Mental Health Needs Assessment for Nueces County – Monthly Progress Report, January 2020

In September 2019, Nueces County and the Nueces County Hospital District (NCHD) engaged the Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute (MMHPI) to conduct a comprehensive mental health needs assessment to inform the county's efforts to improve services for its residents.

We (MMHPI) are pleased to provide a monthly progress report on the status of our assessment and the work we accomplished in January 2020.

Milestones for the Month – January 2020

- We increased our focus and outreach with representatives from juvenile justice, child welfare, and schools, and providers that serve children and youth. The Child, Youth and Family Team, with support from our Criminal Justice Team, conducted several interviews, including interviews with stakeholders who are engaged in juvenile justice in Nueces County.
- In addition, we shared the *Preliminary Report on Criminal Justice Diversion Issues in Nueces County* with local criminal justice stakeholders, including the Corpus Christi Police Department, Nueces County Sheriff's Office, and the Nueces Center for Mental Health and Intellectual Disabilities, to gather their feedback on the draft report. Engaging stakeholders on our preliminary findings will better inform our final report.

Adult/Criminal Justice

- The Criminal Justice Team reviewed the initial data on local criminal justice diversion efforts submitted by local stakeholders and has initiated requests for clarification and additional information. The team has scheduled interviews for February with key criminal justice system stakeholders to confirm the work flow described in our preliminary report, resolve any remaining data issues, and explore opportunities and challenges in more depth for our final report. We will also interview community-based resources that support diversion and re-entry efforts to determine current service capacity and capabilities to inform our final report.
- In addition, the Adult Team interviewed members of the Driscoll Children's Hospital leadership team as well as leadership with Superior HealthPlan. The team reviewed initial data submitted by the Nueces Center for Mental Health and Intellectual Disabilities and will follow up on data clarification during February. Interviews with local resource providers will continue throughout February.

Veterans

- The Veterans Team continued to contact community resources that are available to veterans and their families and identify additional stakeholders to interview as part of the assessment. This outreach has secured several interviews for February, including with the Naval Air Station–Corpus Christi Fleet and Family Support Services, Vet Center, VA Texas Valley Coastal Bend Health Care System Homeless Program, and Military Veteran Peer Network.

Child, Youth, and Family

- The Child, Youth, and Family Team interviewed individuals from several child welfare organizations, including Child Protective Services Region 11, CASA of Coastal Bend, A World for Children, Circle of Care, and Upbring. Interviews focused on child welfare will continue into February.
- In addition, the team began researching juvenile justice services available in Nueces County and conducted several interviews with local stakeholders, including the chief juvenile probation officer of Nueces County along with other staff at the Nueces County Juvenile Justice Center. The Justice Center staff also provided statistical reports that are under review. We are in the process of scheduling interviews with providers and other community-based resources that are available to the local juvenile justice system, including Liberty Resources and the Coastal Bend Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse.
- Regarding outreach with school-based personnel, the Child, Youth, and Family Team conducted an interview with Dr. Zehara Sunrani, the executive director of It's Your Life Foundation, who also serves on the Opioid Task Force Education Committee. The team has also requested interviews with Communities In Schools, Nueces County. Team members will travel to Corpus Christi February 10, 12, and 13 to conduct in-person interviews with school/independent school district personnel and various staff at the Education Service Center 2.
- Finally, the Child, Youth and Family Team will partner with the Adult Team to interview health care and mental health providers that serve both adults and children.

Deliverables for Month

- We submitted our *Monthly Status Report for December 2019* to Nueces County Judge Barbara Canales and Dr. Jonny Hipp, NCHD administrator and chief executive officer.

Upcoming Deliverables

- April 15, 2020: We will submit a draft report of our comprehensive community mental health needs assessment.

- June 15, 2020: We will submit a final report of our comprehensive community mental health needs assessment.
- June 15 to September 15, 2020: We will provide consultation to review report recommendations and how to implement them.