

## Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute

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

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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 February 2020.

#### Milestones for the Month – February 2020

- During February, John Petrila, Senior Executive Vice President of Policy, and Melissa Rowan, Executive Vice President for Policy Implementation, interviewed all five members of the Nueces County Commissioners Court and more than half of the Nueces County Hospital District board members. These interviews provided deep insight and illuminated local leadership and stakeholders' goals and priorities for addressing mental health in Nueces County.
- In addition, the MMHPI Nueces County assessment conducted dozens of interviews with local community stakeholders over the course of several weeks in February. To date, our team has conducted interviews with 119 individuals from various organizations.

#### Adult/Criminal Justice

- Our Criminal Justice and Adult Team conducted on-site interviews to obtain feedback on the *Preliminary Report on Criminal Justice Diversion Issues in Nueces County* that was recently distributed to stakeholders for review and comment. The team reviewed the report with key staff from Nueces County Community Supervision and Corrections Department; the local mental health authority, Nueces Center for Mental Health and Intellectual Disabilities (NCMHID); Nueces County District Court Administration; Corpus Christi Police Department (CCPD); and Nueces County Sheriff's Department. Feedback from these interviews will be incorporated into the final report. The team also had an initial interview with the manager of the Corpus Christi City Detention Center and will conduct a focus group with officers from CCPD in March.
- Our Adult Team interviewed members of the civic, philanthropic, and nonprofit organizations, including homeless and domestic violence shelter providers, leadership at the Coastal Bend Community Foundation, and The John G. and Marie Stella Kenedy Memorial Foundation, as well as the United Way of the Coastal Bend and Nueces County Community Action Agency. In addition, Adult Team members conducted follow-

up interviews with NCMHID leadership, including the chief financial officer and the former NCMHID Chief Executive Officer Diane Lowrance, and toured an NCMHID clinic. The team continues to remain in touch with NCMHID staff as we further explore the agency's crisis program.

### **Veterans**

- Our Veterans Team continued to collect veteran-specific mental health data, 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 March, including with the Corpus Christi Army Depot's mental health and suicide prevention specialist, Nueces County veterans treatment court manager, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi's University Counseling Center, and focus groups with the Corpus Christi Police Department.

### **Child, Youth, and Family**

- Our Child, Youth, and Family Team continued to conduct interviews with child welfare organizations, including Superior Health Plan and the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) Region 11. The team expects to schedule an interview with Judge Timothy McCoy from the Nueces County Court at Law 5 in the next few weeks. The team continued to conduct interviews with juvenile justice organizations, including the Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, Liberty Resources, and the Nueces County Juvenile Justice Center.
- Our Child, Youth, and Family Team also interviewed representatives from local schools, including Calallen Independent School District (ISD), Corpus Christi ISD, Flour Bluff ISD, Port Aransas ISD, West Oso ISD, Richard Milburn Alternative High School, and Seashore Charter Schools. Since Education Service Center (ESC) Region 2 serves all Local Educational Agencies (LEA), we also interviewed staff from ESC Region 2. Individuals from the Diocese of Corpus Christi who represent the local Catholic schools were interviewed. In addition, the team collected and reviewed district and school discipline data and data on military families.
- Our Child, Youth, and Family Team partnered with our Adult Team to interview health care and mental health care providers that serve adults, children, and youth. We interviewed the following organizations in February: Coastal Bend Wellness Foundation, a federally qualified health center, Nueces County Medical Society, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi Department of Counseling and Education Psychology, and Family Counseling Service.
- Finally, the team followed up with NCMHID to collect and review additional data. MMHPI staff is reviewing and summarizing all data that have been collected from key

informant interviews, and draft findings and recommendations are being developed for the first draft of the assessment.

### **Deliverables for Month**

- We submitted our *Monthly Status Report for January 2020* 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.