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NEWS RELEASE

Department of Public Health Receives National Award

Health information recognized by National Association of County and City Health Officials

EL PASO, Texas – The City of El Paso is pleased to announce that the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) has selected the Department of Public Health (DPH) as a Promising Practice for its Paso del Norte Electronic Network for Linkage to Preventive Health Services.

The project maximizes the Health Information Exchange (HIE) which has been in development for the last seven years. The HIE is a secure health information system that centralizes health records to ensure that clients can be better served across a network of providers. The Department's Medicaid Waiver Program has taken an ultra-proactive approach to serve clients in need who may not have access to a primary care provider.

"This project offers a holistic approach to patients using a medical data hub to evaluate a person's needs," said Public Health Director Robert Resendes. "We are able to use the system by cross referencing our clients' information to make sure if they need further services such as cancer screenings or vaccinations, then they are either provided the care or are directed to the proper venues."

The project is a collaboration between the DPH Medicaid Waiver Program, the Paso del Norte Health Foundation, the Paso del Norte Health Information Exchange (PHIX), and local hospitals and providers. The goal is to eventually include all private providers and clinics and with time, join every health service entity in the El Paso region.

"We want to congratulate the Department of Public Health and the Medicaid Waiver team for their hard work and the dedication they have shown over the last year," said PHIX Executive Director Emily Hartmann. "We look forward to our partnership as we continue to serve our community."

NACCHO presents Promising Practice Awards based on a demonstration of exemplary and replicable qualities in response to a local public health need. The project reflects a strong local health department role, collaboration, and innovation. The NACCHO selected El Paso after a vigorous peer-evaluation process over several weeks.

"We are humbled by this recognition and hope we can share our experiences so that other health departments and communities throughout the country can learn from our model," said Medicaid Waiver Health Project Manager Claudia Lozano.

The award will be formally presented at the Annual Meeting of the National Association of County and City Health Officials in New Orleans in July 2018.

For more information on the Department of Public Health, call 2-1-1 or visit www.EPHealth.com or www.EPSalud.com.

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