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**Emergence Health Network to Transition ECI Services to Outside Agencies**

Children and Families in El Paso Will Continue to Receive Services

**(El Paso, TX May 2016)** Emergence Health Network (EHN) has notified the Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS) that early childhood intervention (ECI) services to children ages birth to 36 months will be discontinued and transferred to other agencies.

 EHN has begun the process of transitioning ECI services to local, approved agencies to serve as new providers so that service is not interrupted. “This is a decision that is not taken lightly but is made in the best interests of the children and families that the program is meant to serve,” said Emergence CEO Kristi Daugherty. “ECI is a complex and specialized clinical offering, and as EHN expands its array of services into primary care and substance use, we believe there are highly qualified providers in the region who can provide high quality care to families. Our leadership team and Board of Trustees firmly believe this is the best course of action for children and families in the long run.”

 ECI services were initially based in schools and classrooms at no cost to families throughout the school year. As the program has evolved, services are now provided year-round in the homes and community settings of eligible children and families, requiring the collection of revenue for eligible costs that were not previously reimbursed by Medicaid or other payment sources.

 Currently, EHN serves approximately 370 children and families. Families receiving ECI Services are being notified of EHN’s plans to discontinue the contract with DARS while ensuring that enrolled families will be transitioned to their new ECI providers. Emergence will work in collaboration with the state agency and newly assigned ECI providers to ensure a smooth transition for current children and families. “We look forward to working with the other approved agencies to make certain that this process goes smoothly,” said Daugherty.