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Local Agencies Team Up for Mental Health Awareness Month

“El Paso – Together We Can Make a Difference”

Did you know a recent report released by the Tri West Group for the El Paso Behavioral Health Consortium found that in El Paso an estimated 165,000 residents need care each year for mental health or substance abuse disorders… yet less than 15,000 receive the care they need?

**(El Paso, TX May 2, 2016)** May is Mental Health Awareness Month and that is why Emergence Health Network together with El Paso County Department of Mental Health Support Services and several other local agencies are joining forces to help spread awareness about the local resources available to help individuals who need behavioral health services. “This type of awareness is important not just during the month of May, but every day and especially in El Paso because we have a big population of our community that is not getting the mental health services they need,” said Kristi Daugherty, CEO Emergence Health Network. “If you have high blood pressure, you know you have to get help and you know where to go. It’s that type of responsiveness that we need when it comes to mental illness.”

“Too many people are suffering from mental illnesses who either don’t know where to get help or they are embarrassed to seek help, so this type of event is important especially when trying to shed the stigma that comes with mental illness,” said Irene Valenzuela, Director El Paso County Department of Mental Health Support Services. “I am confident that our El Paso community can change that.”

**Mental Health Awareness Month Community Rally/Walk**

When: Saturday May 14, 2016

Where: Ascarate Park

6900 Delta Drive, El Paso

Time: 9 am – 9:30 am - Welcome, speakers

9:30 am - Walk begins

9:30 am – 12 pm Walk, vender booths

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