



Hidalgo County Health and Human Services Department

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To whom It May Concern:

Please accept this correspondence as a letter of support for the University of Texas Pan American (UTPA) proposal for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services funding of "Nurse Education, Practice, Quality and Retention Program", (NEPGR).

Hidalgo County Health & Human Services (HCHHS), along with various community partners is ready to assist UTPA in its efforts to expand Community healthcare and preventive medicine along the South Texas Border. HCHHS is committed to assist with community partnership development, and assisting with the organization of the needed medical programs within our community.

We are committed to the following: 1) the utilization of the HCHHS facilities and clinics, 2) use of our medical equipment and 3) the use of our mobile van to coordinate internship and practicum experiences in substance abuse treatment services to help qualified nursing and physician assistant students develop a comprehensive interprofessional understanding of the core functions of substance abuse treatment with a special emphasis on the need for primary healthcare providers to be adept at providing evidence-based brief screenings to identify substance abuse problems in clients as well as provide a community support system for families.

Should UTPA receive the aforementioned funding, HCHHS will proudly introduce the UTPA team to the healthcare partners participating in the various medical funding programs, i.e. CMS 1115 Waiver Program to encourage the development of sustainability methods beyond the initial startup of the program.

UTPA's efforts to acquire this funding demonstrate a commitment to community investment to improve quality and access to healthcare to one of our Country's most impoverished areas. HCHHS is proud to assist and support this endeavor in whichever manner possible.

Respectfully

Eduardo Olivarez
Chief Administrative Officer
Hidalgo County Health & Human Services Department