

SANTUARIO DEL CORAZÓN LHHS UPDATE

BRINGING TRAUMA SUPPORTS TO MIGRANT CHILDREN

LAS CUMBRES COMMUNITY SERVICES BACKGROUND:

Las Cumbres is a community-based behavioral health and social service provider, serving families in Northern NM since 1971. Our two primary service populations are high-risk families with young children, and adults with developmental disabilities. Las Cumbres currently serves over 6,000 children, adults and families annually.

Las Cumbres is recognized as a Child Trauma Treatment Center through the National Child Traumatic Stress Network (NCTSN). We were first awarded a SAMHSA/NCTSN grant in 2012 and it was renewed in 2016, due to our innovative array of evidence-based treatments for children who have experienced trauma. Based on a family's needs, our clinical team provides one or more of the following therapies: Child Parent Psychotherapy, Child-Centered Play Therapy, Circle of Security™ Parenting, Dialectical Behavior Therapy, Attachment Regulation and Competency, and Art Therapy. Services are provided in the family's home, office and/or community settings. Membership with the NCTSN also gives us access to specialized trainings, mentorship, support and connections with the network of Child Trauma Treatment Centers around the country.

SANTUARIO DEL CORAZÓN OVERVIEW

In January 2019, Las Cumbres was one of 13 organizations nationwide awarded supplemental grant funding from the federal government, through the NCTSN, to provide behavioral health supports to migrant children who have experienced trauma as a result of being separated from a parent or primary caregiver. We are one of only two organizations with this funding to provide borderland services.

In a matter of months, and thanks to some very special team members, Las Cumbres was able to fully staff and train a team of seven specialized bilingual/bicultural clinicians and family navigators. 40 new immigrant families in Northern New Mexico are being served through this project. Extensive program outreach has solidified new partnerships with immigration attorneys, judges, activists and community providers in both our northern NM service region, and along the NM/TX/MX borderland, including shelters providing housing and foster care to unaccompanied migrant children.

Current grant funding will expire between September-December 2019. Our goal is to continue this project through alternative funding sources.

SANTUARIO DEL CORAZÓN APPROACH

The Santuario Project Team provides all services free of charge to families, and regardless of their legal status. Existing evidence-based treatments are adapted to attune to each family's unique cultural norms.

Two distinct branches of the project have been developed:

1. Wraparound family navigation and comprehensive clinical treatment for immigrant children/families impacted by traumatic separation in northern NM (Santa Fe, Rio Arriba, Los Alamos, and Taos counties).
2. Monthly mobile team services to the NM/TX/MX borderland, including: acute trauma screening, referral triage (local and at their final destinations around the country) and mental health supports for unaccompanied children and migrant families; training and consultation for a wide range of service providers; and participation in a multidisciplinary pilot project to coordinate legal and mental health services for asylum seekers.

SANTUARIO DEL CORAZÓN PATH FORWARD

Las Cumbres is committed to continuing this project in Northern NM and at the border.

- We recently expanded into Albuquerque and can now provide family navigation services for immigrant children and their families in that community, filling gaps in the existing provider network.
- In the last year 50+ children have been released to ORR sponsors in NM. Our goal is to ensure every child in NM, who traveled unaccompanied or has experienced trauma as a result of separation from a caregiver, receives high-quality, trauma-informed behavioral health and navigation supports.
- Las Cumbres has been invited by NCTSN leadership to participate in nation-wide presentations and training initiatives due to the innovative and successful components of our project. We also intend to continue providing community-based presentations on the special needs of this population, and Secondary Traumatic Stress supports for front-line providers around the state.

POTENTIAL FUTURE FUNDING SOURCES

- National Grants
- Individual Donors
- State Funds (DOH, CYFD)
- Federal Grants



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