



Contact:

Ida Ortegon  
(915) 544-7636

Minerva Rodriguez  
(214) 632-9035

### **The Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute and Paso del Norte Health Foundation to Host Symposium to Discuss Mental Health Landscape in El Paso**

*Local forum is one of seven stops across the state to discuss  
regional mental health issues and best practices*

**EL PASO** (August 27, 2014) – The Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute, in partnership with Paso del Norte Health Foundation, is announcing the El Paso “Texas State of Mind” tour aimed at bringing together mental health professionals, civic and business leaders and public officials to discuss mental health issues in specific communities and across the El Paso county region.

The forum will be held Wednesday, August 27 at the Doubletree Hotel, El Paso Downtown from 8 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Featured speakers and topics include: U.S. Congressman, Beto O’Rourke and Texas State Representative, Joe Moody with special messages from Texas Senator, Joe Rodriguez and Texas State Representative, Joe Pickett. The event will include experts and community leaders working in the mental health arena.

“Whether we know it or not, each of us has a friend or relative with a behavioral health issue. We must work together to change attitudes toward mental illness and create a behavioral health system where people get the care they need, when they need it.” said Sharon Butterworth, board member Paso del Norte Health Foundation and the Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute.

The tour is one of seven being held throughout the fall in cities around Texas. Each event will be regionally tailored, bringing together partners, speakers and legislators to discuss, analyze and raise public awareness on key regional and statewide mental health issues.

“With the upcoming 2015 legislative session, we have a unique opportunity to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of how mental health care is delivered to Texans,” said Tom Luce, chief executive officer of The Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute. “In order to impact change, input from those at the local level is critical. We hope that this tour will spark

thoughtful conversations about mental health issues and help us identify and implement promising best practices and policies.”

These seven events follow the successful launch of the Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute in April 2014. The Meadows Foundation established the institute to work with partners across the state to identify best practices, explore innovative new approaches, and find policies that work to deliver efficient and effective mental health care to Texans.

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### **About The Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute for Texas**

The Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute is a nonpartisan nonprofit organization that identifies and encourages the implementation of mental health policies and practices to enable Texans to get help when and where they need it.

### **About Paso del Norte Health Foundation**

The Paso del Norte Health Foundation is one of the largest private foundations on the U.S. - Mexico border. The Foundation’s mission is to promote health and prevent disease for the 2.4 million people living in West Texas, Southern New Mexico, and Ciudad Juárez, Mexico through health education, leadership and advocacy.

The Foundation's role is to lead, fund, leverage and promote, opportunities to ensure that all people in the Paso del Norte region have the knowledge, resources, and environment they need to live healthy lives.