

Texas Department of State
Health Services

### TEXAS BINATIONAL TB PROJECTS



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# Continuity of Care Among Foreign Transfers



- >Challenges:
  - > Detainees deported without referrals
  - ➤ Treatment interruptions resulting in TB complications
  - Family members exposed
- What are the solutions?



## Continuity of Care Among Foreign Transfers

#### Partners

- Texas Binational Programs
- ➤ Cure TB
- >TB Net

### Discussion

➤ What are your key continuity of care challenges that your programs experiences in Texas?



- The client lives in Mexico but has relatives in the US
- > The client has dual residency in the US and Mexico
- The client has contacts on both sides of the border.
- ➤ The client starts treatment in the U.S. but returns to live in Mexico
- ➤ TB clients referred from the U.S for treatment or follow-up





- The first Binational TB Project "JUNTOS" was formally established in 1991
- Public Health Advisor assigned May 2015 to Region 11 Harlingen, Texas
- PHA conducted on-site reviews of each project.
- Patients with a binational link are seen for directly observed therapy, labs, clinical care and education
- Heartland National TB center provides expert consultation for complicated cases and provides TB intense training for binational nurses
- Criminal activities are a huge challenge for binational staff and patients as is incarceration and gang affiliations.

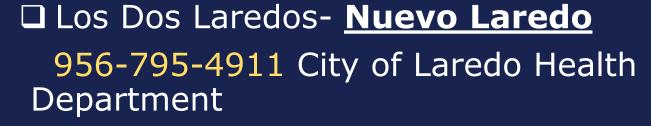


# Texas Binational TB Projects





### **Contact Details for Referrals**



- ☐ Grupo Sin Fronteras <u>Harlingen</u> 956-423-0130 Health Service Region 11
- □ Projecto JUNTOS **El Paso**915-834-7792 Health Service Region 9/10
- □ Projecto Esperanza y Amistad- <u>Eagle Pass</u> <u>and Piedras Negras</u>
  - 830-513-8070 Health Service Region 8







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When do you refer to the Binational Projects?

- ➤ Subject has a confirmed address within the Projects' designated cities
- ➤ Subject has contacts within the binational projects' areas



### What do you need to send?

- Complete patient record including current labs, culture results, radiology reports, delivery of medication records
- Prefer a patient interview over the phone but not required.
- Patient confidentiality if not already acquired
- Medication for travel days with instructions



## What do they do?



- Patient Care/Case Management
- DOT (Directly Observed Therapy)
- > Home Visits
- > Contact Investigation
- > Communication
- > Education
- > Psychological and emotional support
- Collect specimens (blood, sputum, QFT'S)















- ➤ Treatment interruptions due to mobility
- ➤ Violence
- >Travel restrictions
- ➤ Criminal activities of patient
  - Incarceration
  - Gang affiliation
- ➤ Lack of uniformity between the TB control programs





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## Thank you

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