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February 20, 2019

Mr. Tony Sanchez, Jr. A.R. "Tony" and Maria J. Sanchez Family Foundation 1000 Main Street, Suite 3000 Houston, Texas 77002-6342

Dear Mr. Sanchez,

I have exciting news to report about the integration of behavioral health services at the Sanchez Family Center. Thanks to generous support from you and the John G. and Marie Stella Kenedy Memorial Foundation, we are in the process of hiring a full-time, dedicated psychiatrist and a therapist to work on-site with the children and adolescents who need these services but were previously referred outside of the clinic.

I would like to share with you some of the highlights of our search process. In an average year, six psychiatrists specializing in pediatrics graduate from fellowships in Houston. When we heard the great news last summer that we would receive funding to expand behavioral health at the Sanchez Family Center, we learned that all of the recent graduates had already been placed. It is typical for them to secure employment months ahead of graduation.

Although we could have chosen to hire someone from an agency, we wanted to find the right specialist who would fit well at the practice, someone who shared our passion for helping children and adolescents in vulnerable communities like Gulfton. We also knew this specialist needed to be bilingual and someone our families at the Sanchez Family Center would feel comfortable expressing their behavioral and mental health needs with. This is a unique set up because this specialist would be the only one in the clinic with this expertise, which is much different than working in a regular office setting.

We were blessed to find the talent we were searching for was right under our noses!

Introducing our new psychiatrist: Dr. Jesus-Martin Maldonado-Duran

It turns out that Dr. Maldonado-Duran, a psychiatrist working in our Complex Care Clinic at Texas Children's Main Campus at the Texas Medical Center, was inspired by the good things happening at the Sanchez Family Center. As Dr. Maldonado-Duran works with our team in the Complex Care Clinic on his replacement, he has agreed to help cover patients in both clinics for three months. We are thrilled that Tuesday, March 5, will be Dr. Maldonado-Duran's first day at the Sanchez Family Center.

Introducing our new licensed clinical social worker: Ana Thornton

We are also pleased to report that after conducting a rigorous search, Ms. Thornton, a licensed master social worker who has been with the Sanchez Family Center since 2011, completed her studies to become a licensed *clinical* social worker and has begun providing therapy for our patients.

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What a difference adding these services will make to our patients' mental health and overall well-being. Having both a licensed psychiatrist and a therapist will ensure continuous care, eliminate the need to refer patients outside the clinic and introduce a broader range of treatment modalities, including diagnostic tests and prescribing medications and psychotherapy.

Funding from the Kenedy and Sanchez foundations will sustain this program through 2020. Its overall success, including the number of lives saved, will help us make a strong case to the hospital for inclusion in future budgeting once this grant has been exhausted.

Thank you again for your unwavering dedication to helping Texas Children's provide the care our young patients need, especially in underserved areas like Gulfton.

Sincerely,

Kay Jittle
Kay Fittle
President

Texas Children's Pediatrics and Urgent Care