

## EdRicardo J. Gandara

EdRicardo is currently the Community Educator for Emergence Health Network. He goes out to the community and puts on presentations on mental health and suicide stigma reduction.

Additionally, he works with the El Paso County Sheriff's Office - Region VIII Training Academy to teach the following courses that are mandated by the State, which is regulated by the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (TCOLE). Suicide Detection and Prevention (TCOLE # 3501), Mental Health for Officers (TCOLE # 4201) Mental Health for Jailers (TCOLE # 4900), Mental Health for Jailers - 40 Hour (TCOLE # 5s00) and Mental Health First Aid.

EdRicardo retired with the El Paso County Sheriff's Office as a Detention Officer with twenty years and holds a Master Jailer License with TCOLE. He was the Inmate Special Needs Officer and would ensure that any inmates that had any medical or mental health issues were addressed and would work with community organizations to provide continuance of care for the inmate. Examples of the organizations to whom he would refer include Emergence Health Network, Coalition for the Homeless and other agencies that would provide services for them.