



Esmeralda Guajardo, MAHS
Assistant Health Administrator
Cameron County Department of Health and Human Services

Esmeralda (“Esmer”) Guajardo has served as the Assistant Health Administrator with the Cameron County Department of Health and Human Services since 1999. During this time, Ms. Guajardo has had oversight of numerous program capacities, with current administrative management of the Clinical Services Program which includes the Maternity, Family Planning, Child Health, Immunization and Tuberculosis (TB) Programs.

In her 12 years with the department, Ms. Guajardo has led the department in addressing high-profile public health incidents within Cameron County, including the coordination of the H1N1 Mass Vaccination Clinics, the Hepatitis A Mass Vaccination Clinics involving a local restaurant and Operation Sting ‘em which entailed mass screenings for TB at the University of Texas at Brownsville. As the Public Information Officer for the department, Ms. Guajardo has also addressed numerous public health incidents with the production of H1N1 health alerts, hurricane preparedness messages and red tide advisories. She has worked on highlighting public health observances and issues through the development of promotion and awareness materials, including the *“Vaccinate Your Entire Family”* campaign and public service announcements.

Ms. Guajardo has facilitated development plans to improve the department’s infrastructure, both technologically and structurally. Upon the availability of preparedness funds, Ms. Guajardo worked with the Texas Association of Local Health Officials to direct the implementation of the Health Alert Network within the department which provided for its’ initial internet connectivity and accessibility. Ms. Guajardo also led the design and remodeling of the two TB clinics at the Mary P. Lucio Public Health Clinic in Brownsville and the Harlingen Public Health Clinic in Harlingen, thus, ensuring client confidentiality, appropriate environmental controls and maximized employee office space.

Currently, Ms. Guajardo is leading project planning initiatives which include the establishment of the Mother Friendly Worksite Initiative to establish a supportive breastfeeding and lactation environment for employees and the Medicaid Administrative Claims process which is expected to generate an estimated \$80,000 per year for the Clinical Services Program. In addition, she has implemented Operation IT Facelift that will provide for the use of electronic medical records within the clinics as well as establish an independent internal IT system for the department. Ms. Guajardo also serves as the Local Responsible Party for the department and will head the development of the department’s Confidential Information Security Procedures.

Ms. Guajardo holds a Master of Arts in Human Services with a concentration in Administration and a Bachelor of Arts in English Writing from St. Edward’s University in Austin, Texas. She is a certified Animal Control Officer, member of the Texas Animal Control Association and All Hazards Incident Management Team. Ms. Guajardo also participates in the Texas Immunization Stakeholder Working Group and BorderMACH, a group consisting of public health officials from the U.S. and Mexico which address maternal and child health issues along the border.