



## Hidalgo County Commissioners Court

**Richard F. Cortez**  
*County Judge*

**David L. Fuentes**  
*Commissioner, Precinct 1*

**Eduardo "Eddie" Cantu**  
*Commissioner, Precinct 2*

**Joe M. Flores**  
*Commissioner, Precinct 3*

**Ellie Torres**  
*Commissioner, Precinct 4*

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RICHARD F. CORTEZ**

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## NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
Monday, March 18, 2019

### **Collaboration with UTRGV programs support research and clinical services**

**EDINBURG** – One of the ways Hidalgo County cares for the health and safety of residents is through collaboration. At Commissioners Court, the Health and Human Services Department received approval for three Interlocal Cooperation Agreements with the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley that will further strengthen the county's work in providing access to research and health care.

"These Interlocal Agreements will establish a larger footprint in developing access to health care in Hidalgo County," said Director Eddie Olivarez in a telephone interview from Washington D.C.

Olivarez is a featured speaker at a National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine workshop regarding the challenges in monitoring populations following nuclear and radiological emergencies in the United States. He was represented at Commissioners Court by Public Health Education Coordinator Rick Salinas.

One of the agreements will strengthen the county's efforts to track and analyze mosquito-borne illness data in collaboration with the Center for Vector-Borne Disease, which was established by UTRGV last April. The other two, with the School of Nursing and College of Health Care Professions, respectively, will serve to provide education for nursing and allied health students at the county's clinical facilities, as well as provide clinical support during public health exercises and emergency events.

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**PHOTO:** Health and Human Services Director Eduardo "Eddie" Olivarez.