

Resolution



ORDER NO 2014-0720

DATE: May 27, 2014

STATE OF TEXAS §


COUNTY OF DALLAS §

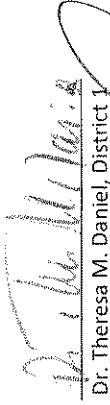
BE IT REMEMBERED, at a regular meeting of the Commissioners Court of Dallas County, Texas, held on the 27th day of May, 2014 a motion made by Dr. Theresa Daniel, Commissioner District 1, and seconded by Dr. Elba Garcia, Commissioner Dist. 4, the following Resolution was adopted:

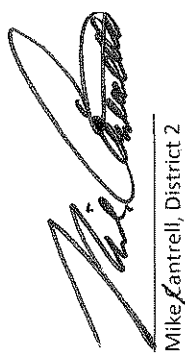
- Whereas:** In 1949, the White House, under President Harry S. Truman, and the medical community declared May as Mental Health Awareness Month to increase public awareness of mental health, eliminate the stigma and to improve services; and
- Whereas:** Today, we know that nearly half (46.4 %) of all Americans will experience a mental health disorder in their lifetime, according to the Center for Disease Control. Mental illness is one of the leading causes of disabilities in the United States, affecting one out of every four families in America and victimizing both those with the illness and those who care for and love those afflicted; and
- Whereas:** The National Institute of Mental Health has reported that many people suffer from more than one mental disorder at a given time. Forty-five percent of those with any mental disorder meet criteria for two or more disorders, with severity strongly related to comorbidity (including diabetes, cardiovascular disease, HIV/AIDS, and cancer); and
- Whereas:** An analysis of youth involved with the Dallas County Juvenile Department showed of the 1, 589 juveniles court ordered to probation in 2012, 1002 or 63% were identified with mental health issues. Children at Risk put the number for juveniles with mental illness in our system at 70% with 20% of them having significant mental health issues. According to the Behavioral and Psychiatric Services at the Dallas County Jail, the percentage of mentally ill referrals for all book-ins is 27-33%; and
- Whereas:** Without treatment, the consequences of mental illness for an individual and society are staggering: unnecessary disability, unemployment, substance abuse, homelessness, incarceration, suicide and devastating lives; and
- Whereas:** The Dallas County Behavioral Health Leadership Team (BHLT) is integral to the progress made in addressing the overarching needs of Dallas County since its inception in 2011. It is an authority granted by the Dallas County Commissioners Court and the Parkland Board of Managers for Dallas County behavioral health services that ensures local control of the funding for and delivery of behavioral health service, including substance abuse; and
- Whereas:** The Dallas County Behavioral Health Leadership Team interfaces with the Commissioners Court, the Dallas County Hospital District (Parkland), the North Texas Behavioral Health Authority, the Criminal Justice Advisory Board, the Specialty Courts, State Agencies and various County Departments, legislators, foundations, consumers and family advocates. Several committees drive the results through collaboration: The Adult Clinical Operations Team, Families Adolescents Children Team, Behavioral Health Steering Committee, Legislative Committee, the Crisis Services Project Governance Committee and the recently formed Housing Work Group; and
- Whereas:** The Dallas County Behavioral Health Leadership Team ensures that Dallas County is an active partner with other counties in developing a strong regional behavioral healthcare system; and
- Whereas:** The members of the Dallas County Behavioral Health Leadership Team are not just leaders in their field, but are passionate trailblazers representing a broad sector of advocates, providers, inpatient residential treatment centers, county government officials and criminal justice, payers and funders committed to enhancing the care and improving the lives of those living with mental illnesses and their families; and
- Whereas:** Mental Health America's 2014 theme is "Mind Your Health," which rightfully declares there can be "no health without mental health." Improving public awareness of mental illness is needed so individuals may receive adequate and appropriate treatment that will result in their becoming fully functioning members of society; and


NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Dallas County Commissioner Court and the citizens of Dallas County appreciate the tireless hours expended by the members of the Dallas County Behavioral Health Leadership Team. During National Mental Health Awareness Month, we applaud the Dallas County Behavioral Health Leadership Team for their ongoing efforts to address the unique needs of those with mental illness, raise public awareness and to build a community of hope within Dallas County.

DONE IN OPEN COURT this the 27th day of May, 2014.


Clay Lewis Jenkins, County Judge


Dr. Theresa M. Daniel, District 1


Mike Cantrell, District 2


Dr. Elba Garcia, District 4


John Wiley Price, District 3