

Resolution



ORDER NO. 2018-0568

DATE: May 15, 2018

STATE OF TEXAS §

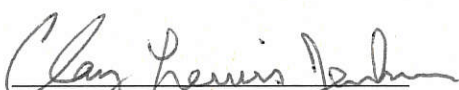
COUNTY OF DALLAS §

BE IT REMEMBERED, at a regular meeting of the Commissioners Court of Dallas County, Texas, held on the 15th day of May, 2018, on a motion made by Dr. Theresa M. Daniel, Commissioner of District 1 and seconded by Dr. Elba Garcia, Commissioner of District 4 the following Resolution was adopted:

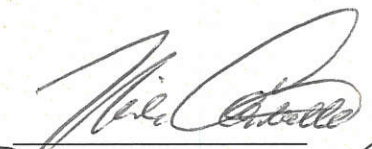
- WHEREAS**, Stepping Up, the national initiative to reduce the number of people with mental illnesses in jails, was launched in May 2015 by the National Association of Counties (NACo), the American Psychiatric Association (APA) Foundation and The Council of State Governments (CSG) Justice Center; and
- WHEREAS** Dallas County, along with more than 415 counties, signed on to the "Call of Action" to join the initiative. The County committed to creating cross-systems, and sustainable plans to reduce the number of people with mental illnesses in our jail; and
- WHEREAS**, Dallas County has several collaborative policy and planning groups designed to reduce and divert the mentally ill in jail such as the Behavioral Health Leadership Team, the Behavioral Health Steering Committee, the Behavioral Health Housing Work Group, the Criminal Justice Advisory Board; and the Jail Population Committee; and
- WHEREAS**, With support from the W.W. Caruth, Jr. Foundation at the Communities Foundation of Texas, in 2015, the Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute launched a county-wide planning project to identify strategies to improve outcomes for people with mental illnesses within the Dallas County justice system. The goal of this planning effort was to develop a comprehensive plan to eventually eliminate the use of the county jail to house people with mental illnesses who do not otherwise need to be incarcerated by engaging local partners in a rapid and results-oriented planning process; and
- WHEREAS**, The Dallas County Smart Justice Initiative began with an extensive analysis of the current system. The analysis included reviews of police, emergency room and jail records, mapping of community psychiatric resources, and 58 focus groups with more than 400 officers; and
- WHEREAS**, Dallas County also recognizes the need for data-driven, systems level changes to increase access and connections to treatment and services for people while reducing jail populations and improving public safety in fiscally responsible and effective ways. To accomplish this goal Dallas County participated in the Data-Driven Justice (DDJ) Behavioral Health Design Initiative in 2017. The DDJ is focused on identifying and getting appropriate care for a relatively small number of highly vulnerable people in North Texas who may experience homelessness and cycle repeatedly through local jails, hospital emergency rooms, shelters, and other public systems.

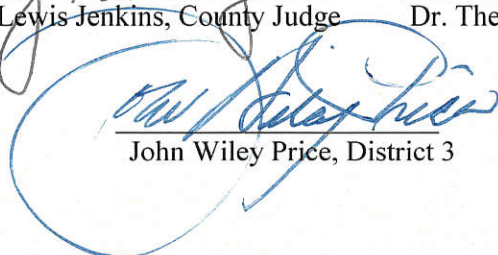
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Dallas County Commissioners Court does hereby take pride in joining hundreds of counties from across the nation today as part of Stepping Up Day of Action to reduce the mental illness in jails. We take this time to recognize that although we have taken great strides towards solving this issue, we must continue to work toward a more effective service-delivery system but also provide the momentum to improve jail diversion efforts for people with mental illnesses in Dallas County.

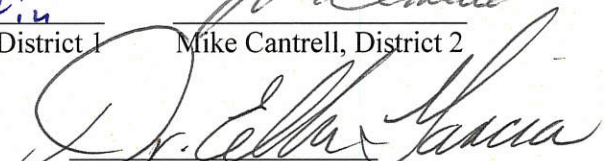
DONE IN OPEN COURT on this the 15th of May, 2018


Clay Lewis Jenkins, County Judge


Dr. Theresa M. Daniel, District 1


Mike Cantrell, District 2


John Wiley Price, District 3


Dr. Elba Garcia, District 4