

Resolution



ORDER NO: 2019-0334

DATE: April 2, 2019

STATE OF TEXAS §

COUNTY OF DALLAS §

BE IT REMEMBERED, at a regular meeting of the Commissioners Court of Dallas County, Texas, held on the 2nd day of April, 2019, with 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, Dallas County Commissioners Court will observe the month of April as National Autism Awareness Month, to educate the public about autism and issues within the autism community and to recognize the Dallas Independent School District and Metrocare Services for their extraordinary commitment to serving those with autism; and

WHEREAS, Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is a neurological disorder characterized by difficulties in social interaction, verbal & nonverbal communication, and repetitive behaviors and appears to have its roots in very early brain development. Autism is the fastest-growing developmental disability in the United States, with two and a half percent of the nation's children, ages 3-17, having an autism spectrum disorder. The Autism Society of America estimates the prevalence is 1 in 59 births which is an increase of 119.4% from 2000 to 2010, while the U.S. Health and Human Services Administration estimates 1 in 40 children suffer from the disorder; and

WHEREAS, 1.5 million children live with an autism spectrum disorder, each individual is unique. The Autism Society of America estimates that the average cost per pupil to educate a child with autism is over \$18,000. Many of those on the autism spectrum have exceptional abilities in visual arts, music and academics. While some with autism have a significant disability and are unable to live independently, about 40 percent have average to above average intellectual abilities; and

WHEREAS, Dallas ISD is focused on early intervention because early diagnosis and intervention of an individual with autism can reduce lifetime support costs by 66% according to The Autism Society of America and Metrocare Services. DISD serves over 3,200 students under the age of 18 with ASD. Over 600 students are assigned to 85 specially designed & structured classrooms, which is up from 52 classrooms in 2014. Of those Dallas ISD students with autism, approximately 2% of the total have ASD and 22% of these students receive special education services; The Autism Program is focused on early intervention and provides support and instruction for students who are being educated in a school setting along with technical support, training for teachers and other campus staff; and

WHEREAS, The Center for Children with Autism at Metrocare Services, utilizes the most advanced techniques of evidence-based Applied Behavioral Analysis interventions to help over 150 children cope and adapt with autism disorders to improve communication and behavioral development skills while unlocking a child's full potential within their communities and schools. Individuals are able to receive follow-up services throughout their lifetime through Metrocare's other programs such as Behavior Treatment Services, Medicaid Waiver programs, Day Habitation and employment services; and

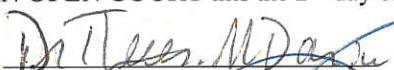
WHEREAS, Metrocare and The Center for Children with Autism also offer autism awareness training to nursing students from local nursing schools to provide training and methods for compliance with routine medical procedures at doctors offices; and

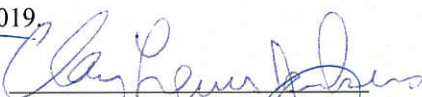
NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Dallas County Commissioners Court does hereby recognize and commend the Dallas Independent School District for its mission to improve the lives of those students on the autism spectrum by delivering effective instruction and increasing acceptance, respect, and support through their Autism Program; and


NOW THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Dallas County Commissioners Court does hereby recognize and commend The Center for Children with Autism at Metrocare Services for their efforts to increase the community's awareness of autism spectrum disorder and for the respect, concern plus effectiveness with which they strive to unlock each child's potential; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Dallas County Commissioners Court does hereby recognize April 2 as World Autism Awareness Day, and the month of April as National Autism Awareness Month in support of the continued effort to raise awareness and improve services for individuals on the autism spectrum.

DONE IN OPEN COURT this the 2nd day of April, 2019.


Dr. Theresa M. Daniel, District 1


Clay Lewis Jenkins, County Judge


J.J. Koch, District 2


John Wiley Price, District 3


Dr. Elba Garcia, District 4