

Resolution

ORDER NO 2019-0442

DATE: May 7, 2019

STATE OF TEXAS §

COUNTY OF DALLAS §

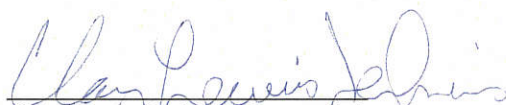


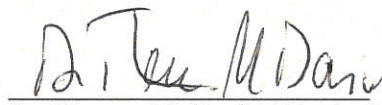
BE IT REMEMBERED, at a regular meeting of the Commissioners Court of Dallas County, Texas, held on the 7th day of May, 2019, on a motion made by Dr. Theresa Daniel, Commissioner District 1, and seconded by Dr. Elba Garcia, Commissioner District 4, the following Resolution was adopted:

- 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, eliminate the stigma and improve services; and
- WHEREAS**, Mental Health includes our emotional, psychological, and social well-being. It affects how we think, feel, and act. It also helps determine how we handle stress, how we relate to others, and make choices; and
- WHEREAS**, Nearly 1 in 5, or 46.6 million, adults in America live with some sort of mental illness. 60% of those adults and 50% of youth aged 8-15, with mental illness, did not receive mental health services in the previous year. Approximately 20% of state prisoners and 21% of local jail prisoners have a history of a mental health condition and 70% of youth in juvenile justice systems have at least one mental health condition. Many organizations have focused their attention on those in our criminal justice system who suffer from mental illness; and
- WHEREAS**, The Stepping Up Initiative, launched in 2015, has committed to creating data-driven plans to reduce the number of people with mental illnesses in jails. Stepping Up will be leading a national Month of Action in May to coincide with Mental Health Month and highlight the important work happening in communities across the country; and
- WHEREAS**, The North Texas Behavioral Health Authority (NTBHA) has been a part of several new efforts to address the needs of justice-involved individuals in the community. NTBHA has taken steps to develop programs to divert individuals from the jails, shorten jail time where possible and improve the likelihood that they can remain in the community. These programs include the Right Care Team and the Jail Based Competency Restoration Program. Additionally, the Living Room is opening in the very near future and will be a link-up point where peer services, benefits specialists, providers and community resources can be engaged.; and
- WHEREAS**, In the past year Homeward Bound, with support from NTBHA, has opened the 18-bed Psychiatric Crisis Residential Unit. Additionally, they have expanded a Comprehensive Mental Health Program serving an average of 90 individuals per month in outpatient services and created a Mental Health Peer Support program to provide emotional and financial support to overcome barriers facing people in need; and
- WHEREAS**, Since, 2017 the Pretrial Services and Criminal Justice Departments have successfully implemented the Smart Justice Behavioral Health Diversion Program. Their clinical team at ADAPT Community Solutions, evaluated 3,815 defendants with behavioral disorders who were booked into the county jail. Ten pretrial officers also assisted, supervised, monitored, connected, and coordinated treatment services for 1,146 behaviorally challenged defendants released on the supervised bond program.
- WHEREAS**, The Cottages at Hickory Crossing, opened in 2016, has seen a significant decrease in utilization of public services through Housing First, a permanent supportive housing model. The Cottage program has been able to revert tax dollars and reduce recidivism rates by at least 50%. The program uses evidence-based approaches and best practices to address criminal behaviors and mental health issues through its partnerships. Instead of lengthened jail time, individuals can be released to The Cottage program, warranting a stable home environment, with services that aid in a significant decrease in extended incarcerations and treatment outsourcing.


NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Dallas County Commissioners Court and the citizens of Dallas County appreciate the tireless hours expended by the members of the Stepping Up Initiative, the North Texas Behavioral Health Authority, Homeward Bound, Pretrial Services, Dallas County Criminal Justice Department and The Cottages during National Mental Health Awareness Month. We applaud all of the individual members for their ongoing efforts to address the unique needs of those with mental illness, especially justice involved individuals, raise public awareness and build a community of hope within Dallas County.


DONE IN OPEN COURT this the 7th day of May, 2019.


Clay Lewis Jenkins, County Judge


Dr. Theresa M. Daniel, District 1


J.J. Koch, District 2


John Wiley Price, District 3


Dr. Elba Garcia, District 4