

LOCAL CONTROL OF NorthSTAR

Whereas, the North Texas Behavioral Health Authority (NTBHA) is the designated local mental health authority for the NorthSTAR service area; and

Whereas, the NorthSTAR area consists of seven north central Texas counties and currently includes Collin County; and

Whereas, NTBHA is vested by law and through a contract with the Texas Department of State Health Services (TDSHS) with the authority and responsibility within the NorthSTAR service area for planning, policy development, coordination, resource development and allocation, and ensuring the provision of mental health services to eligible persons; and

Whereas, members of the NTBHA Board are appointed by Commissioners Courts of the seven member counties and directly represent the constituents of the NorthSTAR service area; and

Whereas, services in the NorthSTAR program are provided by a Behavioral Health Organization (BHO) that contracts directly with the TDSHS with limited oversight by NTBHA; and

Whereas, after an evaluation of the current contracting mechanisms and the division of duties and responsibilities among NTBHA, TDSHS and the BHO, the NTBHA Board of Directors and the Texas Health and Human Services Executive Commissioner agree that NTBHA could better fulfill its legal authority and responsibility with a better defined and coordinated contracting mechanism among all three entities; and

Whereas, the Collin County Commissioners Court believes better services and oversight administration are always provided through local control and leadership; and

Whereas, the staff of NTBHA and TDSHS have initiated a process that will result in revised contracts and division of duties and responsibilities in managing the NorthSTAR program effective September 1, 2011; and

Whereas, TDSHS must agree to provide adequate funding and transitional services to NTBHA for the management and oversight authority necessary to operate NorthSTAR without any detrimental financial impact to the consumers and providers; and

Whereas, NTBHA staff and Board members will provide regular reports to the Collin County Commissioners Court on the progress of the revised contracting mechanism and duties and responsibilities within the NorthSTAR program;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Commissioners Court of Collin County supports the efforts of the North Texas Behavioral Health Authority to develop a coordinated plan with all federal, state and local stakeholders for revising the contracts and division of duties and responsibilities within the NorthSTAR system.