

## RESOLUTION OF THE COLLIN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT

Whereas, research confirms that mental health and substance abuse issues have a significant impact on individuals and their families, community safety, healthcare costs and economic productivity; and

Whereas, individuals with serious mental illnesses have a life expectancy that is far less than their peers often due to other chronic physical health conditions; and

Whereas, integrated physical and behavioral healthcare offers a much stronger system of care for addressing the complex needs of individuals with serious mental health issues; and

Whereas, the Collin County Commissioners Court desires to ensure that Collin County residents in need of treatment have a choice of plans and providers; and

Whereas, the Collin County Commissioners Court believes it is in the best interests of Collin County residents to have a broader array of services available in Collin County; and

Whereas, Senate Bill 58 of the 83<sup>rd</sup> Texas Legislature describes a system of care for the publicly funded behavioral health system that meets the objectives described above; therefore

Be it resolved that the Collin County Commissioners Court requests that Collin County be included in the system described in Senate Bill 58; and further

Requests its Legislative Delegation and elected officials to ensure that Collin County receives a fair share of all allocations and dollars based on per capita funding of all federal and state funds budgeted for the NorthSTAR system.

Approved this day \_\_\_\_\_ by a majority of the Collin County Commissioners

## Senate Bill 58 (Nelson)

This bill accomplishes several goals:

1. Integrates the physical and mental health care funded by Medicaid
2. Gives clients a choice in plans.
3. Places responsibility for increasing the network of providers onto the HMOs who are already contracted for STAR and STAR+ health services
4. Maintains local control of state funds for mental health care for indigent clients
5. Reinforces the use of state crisis services dollars based on local need and resources

Benefits for adding Collin County:

1. Allocates more state and federal funds for Collin County residents and services operating in Collin County
2. Allows crisis services to be designed based on Collin County needs rather than Dallas County needs
3. Places Collin County providers in a stronger negotiating position by aligning with 247 other counties in Texas, and by having at least 2 health plans to negotiate with for Medicaid services.
4. Allows Collin County authority to maximize and coordinate 1115-funded mental health and substance abuse services
5. Increases access to state-funded mental health programs not currently in Collin County: disaster preparedness, jail diversion, veterans services, etc.

What would Collin County Commissioners have to do:

1. Pass the resolution and ask legislative delegation to amend SB 58 to include Collin County
2. Designate a local authority board if approved