

REGULAR AGENDA

AGENDA ITEM 18

Consider approving a resolution to support the Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation's funding request for 2004 and 2005 to the 78th Texas Legislature.

Hartley Sappington addressed the court regarding the proposed resolution. He stated that Texas is ranked 43rd in the United States for health and human services. He stated that there are 525 people on a waiting list for MHMR services in Williamson County due to lack of State funding.

Moved: **Commissioner Heiligenstein**

Seconded: **Commissioner Hays**

Motion: To approve a resolution to support the Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation's funding request for 2004 and 2005 to the 78th Texas Legislature.

Vote: **4 - 0**

< Attachment >

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the success and vitality of every Texas community depends on the good health and productivity of its residents; and,

WHEREAS, the State has found that adults with serious mental illness who do not receive mental health care are twice as likely to spend time in jails and prison, and a significant percentage of youth who are placed on probation are in need of mental health care; and,

WHEREAS, Texas is the 2nd fastest growing state and has the 2nd largest population, and yet Texas ranks 43rd in the nation in per capita funding for community mental health and mental retardation services; and,

WHEREAS, as a result of Texas' fast growing population, rising health care costs and low per capita funding, as of June 2002, Williamson County and the seven other counties served by Bluebonnet Trails Community MHMR Center has a total of 525 persons with mental retardation who receive basic services, but who are in need of additional community support services, and statewide, over 25,000 wait for needed services; some have waited for services for over 7 years; and,

WHEREAS, the U.S. Surgeon General tells us that 1 in 5 people will have a mental disorder in any given year and that, if left untreated, mental disorders can lead to lost productivity, unsuccessful relationships, and significant dysfunction, and that mental illness in adults can have a significant and continuing effect on the children in their care; and,

WHEREAS, at the local level, Bluebonnet Trails Community MHMR Center is currently over capacity and is experiencing an increased demand for essential mental health services with people waiting 4 to 6 weeks to see a psychiatrist; and,

WHEREAS, community mental health and mental retardation services throughout 2004 and 2005 are a high priority for the residents of our county; and,

WHEREAS, our county-appointed community MHMR center board has developed and manages an accountable system of public mental health and mental retardation services for our area that have proven effective and efficient with limited funds; and,

WHEREAS, additional appropriations for services to meet our growing population and rising health care costs would benefit our communities by:

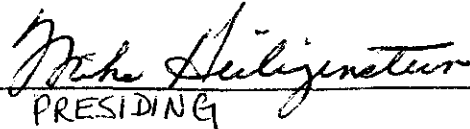
1. Adding intensive mental health service options to get high-need adults and youth with serious mental illness into effective treatment instead of costly services in jails, indigent clinics, hospitals and institutions;

2. Ending long waiting lists for essential community services which enable Texans with extraordinary needs to live and work successfully in their community with the support of family and friends;
3. Providing early treatment for young children at risk of serious mental disabilities thereby reducing more expensive care in the coming years; and
4. Strengthening the mental health safety net for our community.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Williamson County Commissioners' Court to support the Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation's funding request for 2004 and 2005; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that support for increased funding for mental health and mental retardation services be added to the County's Legislative Platform of issues for the 78th Texas Legislature.

UPON MOTION DULY MADE AND SECONDED, the above Proclamation was unanimously adopted on this, the 10 day of December, 2002.


PRESIDING

AGENDA ITEM 19

Hear presentation from City of Round Rock on Round Rock Higher Education Center.

Nancy Yawn, Director of Public Affairs & Business Development, and Jim Nuse, Chief of Operations and Assistant to the City Manager of Round Rock gave a presentation to the court on the Round Rock Higher Education Center.

Moved: **Commissioner Boatright**

Seconded: **Commissioner Limmer**

Motion: To approve a resolution of interest in participation in the Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone for the Round Rock Higher Education Center.

Vote: 4 - 0

Moved: **Commissioner Limmer**

Seconded: **Commissioner Heiligenstein**

Motion: To rescind approval of the resolution.

Vote: 4 - 0

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