



COUNTY JUDGE
Fort Bend County, Texas

Robert E. Hebert
County Judge

November 29, 2017

(281) 341-8608
Fax (281) 341-8609

Texas Health and Human Services Commission
PO Box 13247
Austin, Texas 78711-3247

Re: Mental Health Grant Program for Justice Involved Individuals – Letter of Support

Dear Sir/Madam:

As County Judge of Fort Bend, we are committed to participating in the Fort Bend County Community Collaborative for Justice Involved Individuals with mental illness and co-occurring disorders. Fort Bend is one of the fastest growing counties in the United States with a current population exceeding 750,000. As our population grows, unfortunately, so does the jail population and the need for services related to the care of inmates and reduction of recidivism.

The funding provided by the mental health grant program will allow Fort Bend to continue to provide programs that reduce the recidivism rate in our jails by expanding the jail diversion programs already in existence as well as develop other key services such as housing, employment, substance abuse recovery services, assertive community treatment and continuity of care.

Fort Bend County has a long history of working with other county partners to address the needs of those with mental illness that become involved in the legal system. Texana Center, the local mental health authority, has been involved with the Fort Bend County Criminal Justice Mental Health Initiative since its inception in 2008. The requested funding will address service gaps in our systems, allow us to improve outcomes and enhance cross system collaboration.

Please accept this letter as our intent to enter into a community collaborative with Texana Center for the application to petition the Texas Health and Humans Services Commission for funds through the Mental Health Grant Program for Justice Involved Individuals, as authorized by SB 292, 85th Texas Legislative Session, with a commitment of the local county match.

Thank you for your support of the Fort Bend County proposal. If you have any questions or need additional information please contact Dr. Connie Almeida, Director of Behavioral Health Services, who will lead the county's participation effort at 281-238-3078 or connie.almeida@fortbendcountytexas.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robert Hebert".

Robert E. Hebert
County Judge