

THE STATE OF TEXAS §

COUNTY OF FORT BEND §

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING HB 78 RELATING TO THE CREATION OF A MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT FOR INCARCERATION DIVERSION PILOT PROGRAM

WHEREAS, Residents of Fort Bend County, Texas need broader access to a mental health jail diversion program and crisis stabilization program when entering and leaving jail; and

WHEREAS, Fort Bend County is the fifth fastest growing county in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Adults with untreated mental health conditions are eight times more likely to be incarcerated; and

WHEREAS, Jails are becoming the largest institutions for people with serious mental illness; and

WHEREAS, It is difficult for jail staff to identify mentally ill residents at intake; and

WHEREAS, Courts are so backlogged with cases residents are staying in jail for longer periods of time; and

WHEREAS, Partner with the State of Texas to allow Fort Bend County to support a broader jail diversion program to reduce the frequency of arrests, recidivism and incarceration among persons with mental illness. A program providing short term residential treatment in a crisis stabilization unit.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMISSIONERS COURT OF FORT BEND COUNTY, TEXAS:

THAT ON DECEMBER 15, 2020 THE **FORT BEND COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT**, MEETING AS A BODY IN RICHMOND, TEXAS, ADOPTS THIS RESOLUTION AND URGES THE TEXAS LEGISLATURE TO ALLOW FORT BEND COUNTY TO SUPPORT A BROADER MENTAL HEALTH JAIL DIVERSION PROGRAM AND A CRISIS STABILIZATION PROGRAM WHEN ENTERING AND LEAVING JAIL.

SIGNED THIS 15TH DAY OF DECEMBER, 2020



County Judge KP George

County Judge KP George

ATTEST:




Laura Richard, County Clerk