

**A RESOLUTION OF WILLIAMSON COUNTY  
SUPPORTING FUNDING OF THE STATE HOSPITAL SYSTEM OF CARE**

WHEREAS, Texas is the fastest growing state in our nation, representing the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest population; and

WHEREAS, the population of Williamson County is the 12<sup>th</sup> largest county in Texas with a 21.1% growth rate from 2006 to 2010 and, in 2010, ranked as the 9<sup>th</sup> fastest growing county in the nation; and

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

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

WHEREAS, studies consistently reaffirm our experience that adults and youth with serious mental illness who do not receive mental health care are twice as likely to spend time in jails and prisons; and

WHEREAS, the State of Texas ranks 49<sup>th</sup> in the national ranking for per capital spending supporting the mental health needs of Texans; and

WHEREAS, according to the National Institute of Corrections the average prisoner costs the state of Texas about \$22,000 annually—or an average of about \$60.27 per prisoner per day; and

WHEREAS, according to the same study, the cost of incarcerating a prisoner with mental illness for a year ranges increases the burden on the county jails in Texas at a cost ranging from \$30,000 to \$50,000 a year—or a cost range between \$82.19 and \$136.99 per prisoner per day; and

WHEREAS, the cost of an average stay in the State Hospital fully equipped to manage the mental healthcare needs of an individual is \$987 per patient in comparison with the cost of \$1,990 for an average stay in the

local emergency room less equipped to managed the mental healthcare needs of the patient; and

WHEREAS, the reduced availability of State Hospital beds during 2010 necessitated 790 out of county diversions of our law enforcement officers transporting patients to facilities between 18 to 613 miles per one-way trip, resulted in an incurred cost to Williamson County of \$54,898 during 2010; and


WHEREAS, during the 82<sup>nd</sup> Legislative Session, our legislators are considering a reduction of State Hospital beds currently used to serve our citizens with the most intensive needs for mental health care resulting in greater delays in moving persons from the jails and emergency rooms; and

WHEREAS, during the 82<sup>nd</sup> Legislative Session, our legislators are considering a reduction of \$240 million to the public mental health system in Texas during the 2012-2013 biennium, including a \$32 million reduction from the state hospital system.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that Williamson County recognizes the service and value of the State Hospital system and the detrimental impact of the proposed plan for reduced funding and supports elimination of the proposed funding cuts of \$32 million from the state hospital system; and

**FURTHERMORE**, we call on our Texas leaders to maintain their investment in the community-based and state hospital partnership for people with severe and persistent mental illness, particularly in an economic environment in a fast-growing state that creates an increased demand on public systems.

Adopted this 8th day of March, 2011.

  
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Dan A. Gattis, County Judge

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Lisa Birkman, Precinct #1  
#2

Cynthia P. Long, Precinct

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Valerie Covey, Precinct #3  
#4

Ron Morrison, Precinct