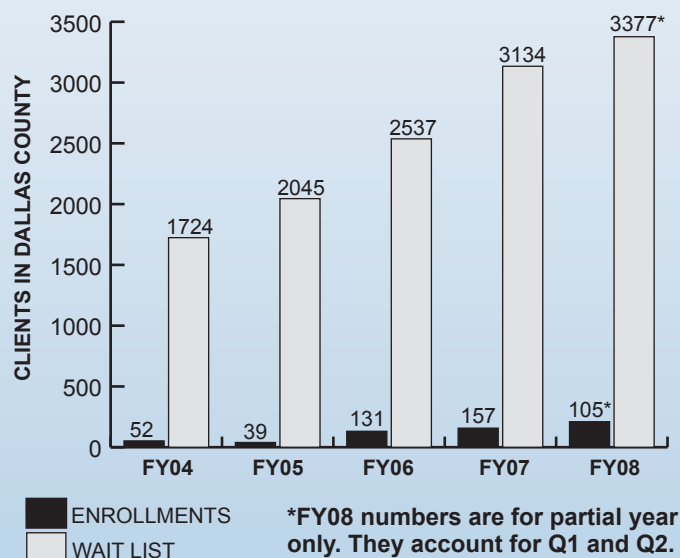


HCS Wait List growing in spite of settlement



In August of 2006, a lawsuit settlement called upon the Texas Legislature to provide sufficient funding in its next three sessions to offset the estimated increase in the number of persons listed on the HCS waiver waiting lists during the preceding biennium. The goal was to achieve a five-to-ten percent reduction in the number of people on the waiting list each year.

In response to the settlement, over \$70 million in general revenue was allocated to reduce waiting lists for community-based long-term care services, including HCS. The money will pay for almost 2700 new waiver slots across the state of Texas.

Many of those slots will go to people who live in Dallas County. The black bars in the graph show the number of people that the Dallas MRA (Mental Retardation Authority of Dallas County, a part of Metrocare Services) has enrolled from the wait list over each of the past five years.

But is the wait list being reduced? No. In fact, the wait list for Dallas County is longer than ever in spite of the new slots, as the white bars in the graph show. Those going onto the list this year should expect quite a wait, because those currently being taken off of it have been there for ten years.

So it is most important that consumer, advocacy and professional organizations come together now in preparation for the next session of the Texas Legislature. We need to continue to advocate on behalf of hard-working Dallas families who, in addition to their job, their house and other routine family business also must care for a child with a developmental disability. Right now, those families receive limited assistance through the Dallas MRA. HCS could provide so much more, if not for the wait list.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS ABOUT HCS

- **What is HCS abbreviated for?**
The Home and Community Based Services
- **What exactly is the Home and Community Based Services?**
HCS is a Medicaid Waiver Program approved by the federal Health Care Financing Administration. It provides community-based services and supports to eligible individuals with developmental disabilities and related conditions as alternative to placement in a state school or nursing home setting.
- **What does HCS pay for?**
The HCS program allows individuals to receive services and supports they need – including up to 24-hour supervision – in their own homes or small community settings of three or four people. Services include case management, nursing services, respite care, and occupational, physical and speech therapies.

Second quarter highlights

- The fifth **Metrocare Pharmacy** began serving clients within a Lifepath Clinic in Plano offering services to Collin County.
- **The Big Texas Toy Run 2007** took place providing gifts and funding for Metrocare children and families.
- **The Dallas Business Journal** named Metrocare #10 on their Book of Lists for Largest Dallas Non-Profits for the second consecutive year.
- Contributions to our mission were provided by **The Cabe Foundation**, **The City of Irving** (Shelter + Care), and **The Big Texas Toy Run**.

Our mission

to serve our neighbors with developmental or mental health challenges by helping them find lives that are meaningful and satisfying

Charles M Cooper, Chairman of the Board
James G Baker MD MBA, Chief Executive Officer