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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
September 11, 2020

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North Texas Collaborative for Veterans and Families Creates Coordinated Mental Health Delivery System

DALLAS – Today, as we reflect and remember the brave men and women who serve our country, Metrocare Services leads the way through the North Texas Collaborative for Veterans and Families, a partnership of five local veteran service organizations joining forces to expand access to best-in-class mental health care for North Texas veterans and their family members.

Funded through the Texas Veterans + Family Alliance (TV+FA) Grant Program, the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) awarded the North Texas Collaborative up to \$3,016,000 over a period of 19 months to create a coordinated and comprehensive service delivery system ensuring that no veteran “falls through the cracks.” Benefitting from a shared funding source, each partner can focus on the unique services they provide while collaborating across agencies on patient care. **The result: greater access and elevated levels of mental health care for North Texas veterans and their families.**

Collaborative partners include:

Metrocare Veteran Services and The Steven A. Cohen Military Family Clinic at Metrocare, offering evidence-based mental health treatment and wrap-around case management services. Metrocare serves as the lead agency for the grant.

22KILL, providing mental health treatment with a specific focus on removing barriers that would otherwise prevent veterans and their families from seeking care;

Equest, providing equine therapy and programs to improve social connection, coping skills, and emotional regulation for veterans and family members;

Texas Health Resources, providing 30-day inpatient mental health and substance abuse treatment as well as other residential services; and

Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute (MMHPI), assisting in the administration of the grant project and introducing technology to support the collaborative’s service delivery model.



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“Metrocare, through our Steven A. Cohen Military Family Clinic, is proud to take the lead on this groundbreaking opportunity to expand access and enhance the quality of care our veterans receive,” said Metrocare CEO Dr. John W. Burruss. “Thanks to the dedication of quality partners and the innovative foresight of the Texas Legislature, now North Texas veterans receive individually tailored care across provider lines.”

“With over 20 veterans losing their lives to suicide every day and with a world coping with an isolating pandemic, a collaborative approach has never been more important,” stated Dr. Amy Williams, Clinical Director of The Steven A. Cohen Military Family Clinic at Metrocare.

“By bringing together these uniquely qualified and committed organizations to collaborate and coordinate care, we can improve the quality of and access to mental health care for North Texas veterans and their families,” said Andy Keller, Ph.D., President and CEO of MMHPI. “We are proud to be part of this effort, which reflects the state’s investment, commitment, and vision to harness the energy and innovation of local organizations dedicated to improving systems of care.”

Beginning amidst the worldwide chaos of early 2020, these five partners made herculean pivots to implement enhanced care coordination in the tumult of COVID-19. Partners blended in-person services with telehealth, working together to ensure every patient received access to the evidence-based, high-quality care needed to heal.

Created from Senate Bill 55 in the 86th Texas Legislature, the Texas Veterans + Family Alliance Grant Program serves as a catalyst for Community Collaboratives, such as the North Texas Collaborative. The goal of TV+FA is to develop and sustain coordinated service delivery systems that continue to operate after the end of the grant period. Grant funds distributed require a dollar for dollar local match. The grant objectives include the implementation of a coordinated service delivery system that expands and enhances care for veterans; a shared technology platform utilized for care coordination and data evaluation; a community-wide needs assessment to map and outline existing veteran services and gaps across DFW; and, the development of sustainable funding sources so the collaborative work can continue.

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About Metrocare Services

Metrocare is the largest provider of behavioral health services in Dallas County, serving more than 60,000 adults and children annually. For over 50 years, Metrocare has provided a broad array of services to people with mental health challenges and developmental disabilities. In addition to mental health care, Metrocare provides primary care centers for adults and children, services for veterans and their loved ones, accessible pharmacies, and housing and supportive social services. Alongside the clinical care, researchers and teachers from Metrocare’s Altshuler Center for Education & Research lead the way in advancing innovative mental health research while training clinicians needed to expand the clinical workforce across the state. For more information, visit metrocareservices.org or call 214-743-1200. Follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).