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For more information contact:

Kennedy Newbanks
Metrocare Services
(214) 549-0802
Kennedy.Newbanks@metrocareservices.org

Metrocare Announces Campaign for New Mental Health and Disability Innovation Center at Hillside

Expansion Aims to Address Unprecedented Demand for Mental Health Services

May 15, 2024 (Dallas, TX) – Metrocare, the largest provider of mental health services in Dallas County, is witnessing an unprecedented surge in demand for mental health services, marking a historic milestone in its half-century history. In response to the escalating demand, Metrocare has embarked on a groundbreaking initiative with its new Mental Health and Disability Innovation Center at Hillside Campus, located in Oak Cliff.

As the need for psychiatric care continues to rise, Metrocare remains steadfast in its commitment to addressing cultural, logistical, and financial barriers to quality mental health care, making it accessible for all. Just last year, Metrocare served a staggering 51,031 children, youth, and adults – with an average of 2,758 clinical encounters each day – regardless of their ability to pay. With the expansion of services at the new Hillside Campus, Metrocare’s capacity to serve the community will increase by 23%, which means roughly 13,000 more people can receive services annually, 5,000 of those being children.

The innovative, 45,000-square-foot Mental Health Clinic will offer integrated, evidence-based care to children, adults, families, veterans, and individuals with disabilities. Additionally, the adjacent 98,000-square-foot Client Services Building will consolidate Metrocare's countywide operations, including training and research. The Hillside Campus will feature bright, open spaces for clinical services, outdoor therapy areas for children, a tranquility garden, an outdoor terrace, and abundant nature views for clients and staff. By offering dignified facilities, Metrocare aims to reflect Dallas as a national leader in mental health support.

“We recognize the crucial link between someone’s physical environment and their emotional well-being,” Metrocare CEO, Dr. John Burruss, explains. “These cutting-edge facilities will be vital in eradicating the stigma and shame that has long plagued public mental health care. It’s a disheartening reality that marginalized communities, particularly low income or communities of color, or those with cognitive and intellectual disabilities, have frequently been relegated to subpar facilities - told to settle for less than they deserve. It’s long overdue to invest in our community.”

The realization of the ambitious Hillside Campus is made possible through the generosity of the Dallas community. Our philanthropic efforts have raised \$14.1M to date, with a campaign goal of \$25M. Despite inflationary pressures driving project costs from an initially projected \$65 million to over \$96 million, Metrocare remains committed to providing high-quality care through partnerships with entities like Parkland Health, which has contributed significantly to the project through a lease-to-own financing arrangement. Through collaborative efforts and the support of Dallas County ARPA funding, Metrocare is poised to meet the increasing demand for mental health services while maintaining sustainable operations for the new campus.

Our Hillside Cabinet Committee members, including Lindsay Billingsley, Lynn McBee, Whitney Wallace-Meyer, Collen Meyer, Mark Melton, Gunnar Rawlings, Roslyn Dawson Thompson, and Shan Zaidi play a vital role. They raise awareness of Metrocare and advocate for Dallas County's leadership in community-based mental health and intellectual developmental disability services.

The new Hillside Campus is set to be fully operational in Fall of 2025. For more information about the Mental Health and Disability Innovation Center at Hillside Campus, please visit www.metrocareservices.org/hillside/.

About Metrocare: Metrocare is the largest provider of mental health, developmental disability and permanent supported housing services in Dallas County serving over 50,000 children, teens and adults annually. For over 55 years, Metrocare has provided a broad array of services from mental health care, primary care, services for veterans and their loved ones, accessible pharmacies, homeless outreach, and supportive social services [or "more"]. Metrocare provides specialty mental health services to over 10,000 children and teens and has numerous programs for babies, children and adults with disabilities, including Early Childhood Intervention, Flourishing Families, Nurturing Parenting, Supported Employment and two specialty autism clinics in Dallas and DeSoto. In conjunction with clinical care, Metrocare's Altshuler Center for Education and Research (ACER) is transforming the community mental health landscape of North Texas through workforce development focused on innovative partnerships and exceptional trauma-informed training.

Metrocare upholds the person-centered philosophy to **focus care on the needs of individual**. We take care to ensure that people's preferences, needs and values guide clinical decisions and to provide care that is respectful of and responsive to those we serve. We see ourselves as partners in healing with our clients and their support network.