

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Metrocare Awarded \$1,000,000 Grant to Expand Substance Use Disorder Services for Dallas County Youth

May 16, 2025 (Dallas, TX) – Metrocare Services, the largest provider of mental health services in Dallas County, is excited to announce it has received a \$1 million grant from Dallas County to expand its Outpatient Substance Use Disorder (SUD) program for children and teens. Over the next two years, this funding will significantly enhance Metrocare's ability to support teens facing Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) and co-occurring SUD and mental health challenges.

The expansion of the program is a critical step in addressing the escalating mental health and substance use crisis among youth in Dallas County. In the program, Metrocare will be able to provide treatment, education, and prevention workshops to nearly 200 unduplicated individuals annually. Additionally, the total number of services provided will rise by 35% - all while maintaining the same high standard of quality care.

"We are deeply grateful to Dallas County for their support and commitment to improving the lives of adolescents facing substance use and mental health challenges," said Dr. John Burruss, CEO of Metrocare Services. "This funding will allow us to expand our reach, fostering a healthier, more resilient community where youth can achieve recovery and thrive."

The expanded program offers a comprehensive array of services, including Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT), Intensive Outpatient Program (IOP) therapy, prevention workshops, and community outreach initiatives. Additionally, it involves the hiring and training of new clinical staff, including a Licensed Vocational Nurse, a Licensed Chemical Dependency Counselor, a Peer Support Specialist, and a Qualified Credentialed Counselor, all dedicated to providing targeted, personalized care for each adolescent in the program.

"Dallas County is proud to support Metrocare's efforts to expand critical substance use disorder services for youth in our community," said Dallas County Judge Clay Jenkins. "This program will not only enhance access to essential care for adolescents in our community who are facing substance use and mental health challenges but will also foster long-term recovery and resilience. We

are committed to working alongside Metrocare to build a healthier, more supportive environment for the youth of Dallas County.”

The grant aligns with Metrocare’s long-term mission to address disparities in access to care and improve outcomes for historically underserved communities. By integrating evidence-based practices, leveraging community partnerships, and providing culturally and linguistically responsive services, Metrocare aims to build a foundation for sustained success in reducing substance use and improving mental health outcomes among adolescents.

For more information on Metrocare and its services, visit <https://www.metrocareservices.org/> or call (214) 743-1200.

About Metrocare: Metrocare is the largest provider of mental health, developmental disability and permanent supported housing services in Dallas County, serving nearly 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, supportive social services, and 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, and Healthy Transitions, as well as 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** and takes 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 served.