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Metrocare Announces Retirement of CEO, John W. Burruss, M.D., After 13 Years of Transformative Leadership

February 2, 2026 (Dallas, TX) – During its January 22nd Board of Trustees Meeting, Metrocare announced that its Chief Executive Officer, **John W. Burruss, M.D.**, will retire effective **April 30, 2026**, concluding a distinguished, 13-year tenure that began on **April 30, 2013**.

Dr. Burruss leaves behind an extraordinary legacy marked by visionary leadership, organizational growth, and an unwavering commitment to expanding access to high-quality mental health and intellectual and developmental disability (IDD) services across Dallas County.

When Dr. Burruss assumed leadership, Metrocare employed approximately 400 team members and managed a \$76.1 million budget. Today, Metrocare is a robust organization of more than 1,200 highly diverse employees, with an annual budget of \$168 million and assets that have grown from \$35.4 million in 2013 to more than \$194 million in 2025—a testament to sustained fiscal stewardship and strategic growth.

Under Dr. Burruss's leadership, Metrocare has achieved significant milestones, including:

- Realizing the vision of the Mental Health & Disability Innovation Center at Hillside, which opened as a state-of-the-art campus late last year and expanded Metrocare's overall capacity to serve by 23%.
- Maintaining a unique same-day access operating model, with an average of 130 walk-ins daily as part of Metrocare's 3,382 daily clinical encounters.
- Partnering with the Cohen Veterans Network to open The Steven A. Military Family Clinic at Metrocare, celebrating their 10th anniversary of providing specialized mental health services to thousands of veterans and military families across Texas annually.
- Becoming one of the first centers in Texas to earn the highest level of designation as a Certified Community Behavioral Health Center (CCBHC), while also achieving NCQA and CARF accreditations—national markers of quality and excellence.
- Transforming the Center for Excellence into the Altshuler Center for Education and Research (ACER), named in honor of Dallas mental health pioneer Dr. Kenneth Altshuler. In the last year

alone, ACER trained more than 600 mental health professionals and now leads multiple active research studies.

- Expanded services for the 733 individuals supported through Metrocare's permanent supportive housing program while advancing the organization's affordable housing strategy through the acquisition of new properties to support a long-term vision.
- Deepening Metrocare's commitment to equity, including the launch of the *Culture Champions* diversity initiative and expansion of the executive leadership team to more closely reflect and serve the community.
- Expanding critical, evidence-based programs for individuals impacted by substance use disorders, autism, early-onset psychosis, and suicidal thoughts and behaviors.

"These accomplishments reflect only a portion of Dr. Burruss' profound impact on the mental health landscape of Dallas County," said Board of Trustees Immediate Past Chair, Ken Bernstein, "His steadfast commitment to advancing equitable access to care, improving clinical outcomes, and advocating for individuals and families living with mental illness has left an enduring legacy on both the organization and in the community."

In announcing his retirement, Dr. Burruss expressed deep gratitude for the opportunity to serve the Dallas community and lead the Metrocare team.

"What I am most proud of is helping to eliminate barriers to care and reduce the stigma of asking for help for the medical problems of the brain," said Dr. Burruss. "Ensuring that Dallas County has the community mental health and IDD system it deserves has been the honor of my professional life."

Metrocare's Board of Trustees has initiated a comprehensive search for the organization's next CEO. Additional details about the leadership transition will be shared in the coming weeks.

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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, 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.