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Metrocare and Local Leaders Celebrate Launch of Public Health Vending Machine at Lancaster-Kiest Clinic

February 11, 2026 (Dallas, TX) – Metrocare, in partnership with Dallas County Health and Human Services (DCHHS), celebrated the launch of a Public Health Vending Machine at its Lancaster-Kiest Adult Mental Health Clinic alongside staff and elected officials on Friday, January 30. This celebration marked a significant step forward in expanding access to lifesaving and essential health supplies for vulnerable populations in Dallas County.

Funded through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the evidence-based initiative provides free, discreet access to critical public health items, including naloxone (Narcan), hygiene kits, sexual health kits, and additional harm-reduction supplies. The vending machine is designed to reduce stigma while meeting individuals where they are with dignity, privacy, and compassion.

The Lancaster-Kiest installation is part of a county-wide program led by DCHHS aimed at reducing opioid overdoses and improving equitable access to essential health resources across Dallas County. Since its installation at the Metrocare site, the vending machine has recorded more than 350 successful transactions.

"Narcan has existed for years, but access at the moment of need has remained a challenge," said Dr. John Burruss, Metrocare CEO. "As opioid misuse continues to rise, we have to be innovative about how we put lifesaving tools directly into the hands of our community. This partnership with Dallas County allows us to do exactly that."

County and state leaders joined Metrocare for the event and underscored the importance of innovative approaches to public and mental health. In addition to current Metrocare CEO, Dr. John Burruss, speakers included:

- Toni Rose, Texas House of Representatives | District 110
- Clay Jenkins, Dallas County Judge
- John Wiley Price, Dallas County Commissioner | District 3
- Dr. Philip Huang, Director of Dallas Health and Human Services

Speakers emphasized the importance of prevention, partnership, and education in addressing public health challenges. Judge Clay Jenkins spoke to the critical role access plays in saving lives, and Dr. Philip Huang spoke about the impact the Public Health Vending Machine will have on the community. County Commissioner John Wiley Price reminded the audience of the importance of education in tandem with innovation for maximum effectiveness. All county officials reinforced their commitment to reducing stigma surrounding substance use in our society.

"Access can be the difference between survival and tragedy. Today, a critical barrier to care was removed in our community," said State Representative Toni Rose.

Metrocare's Lancaster-Kiest Adult Mental Health Clinic was selected for the pilot due to its central role in serving adults with complex behavioral health needs and its strong connection to the surrounding community. The clinic provides same-day access to mental health services and supports adults experiencing mental illness and substance use challenges. For more information about Metrocare and the services it provides to the community, visit www.metrocareservices.org.

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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.