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For more information contact:

Kennedy Newbanks
Metrocare Services
(214) 549-0802

Kennedy.Newbanks@metrocareservices.org

Metrocare Announces Board Leadership Transitions and Appointment of Interim CEO

Stacy Cantu Named Board Chair; Chief Strategy Officer Tate Ringer Named Interim CEO

April 8, 2026 (Dallas, TX) – Metrocare recently announced leadership transitions reflecting its continued focus on effective governance and stability. As of March 2026, Metrocare has completed its Board transition, welcoming new Trustees and appointing Stacy Cantu as Chair of the Board of Trustees, while honoring outgoing chair Ken Bernstein as his term concludes. In addition, the Board has appointed Tate Ringer as Interim Chief Executive Officer to maintain operational continuity while a search for the organization’s next permanent CEO is underway.

Stacy Cantu Appointed Board Chair

Metrocare proudly announces the appointment of Stacy Cantu as Chair of the Board of Trustees. Cantu brings extensive leadership experience and a deep understanding of Dallas County’s needs to her new role. As the founder of Stacy G. Cantu Governance Consulting and former Chief Governance Officer and Corporate Secretary for Texas Health Resources, she offers decades of nonprofit, corporate, and association governance expertise. She has held numerous board and executive leadership positions across the state and now steps into the role of Metrocare Board Chair.

“Certainly one of the most—if not the most—important responsibilities of the Board is selecting the CEO,” said Cantu. “Tate Ringer’s appointment as Interim CEO ensures strong, steady leadership as we search for a permanent leader to build on the vision Dr. John Burruss established over the past 13 years.”

Appointment of Interim Chief Executive Officer

To ensure continuity in leadership and operations, Metrocare’s Board of Trustees has appointed Tate Ringer as Interim Chief Executive Officer, effective Wednesday, April 1. Ringer succeeds Dr. John Burruss, after serving as Chief Strategy Officer for the organization for the last six years.

In her interim role, Ringer will oversee day-to-day operations, support staff and clients, and work closely with the Board during the search for Metrocare’s next permanent CEO. Formerly CEO of LaunchAbility, a pediatric home health organization, as well as a consultant and executive leader in industries such as

home care and software-as-a-service, Ringer brings a strong understanding of business management in general and the mental health and intellectual and developmental disability landscape in Texas in particular.

Recognition of Outgoing Board Chair Ken Bernstein; New and Returning Board Members

Metrocare extends sincere appreciation to outgoing Board Chair Ken Bernstein, whose term concludes after completing the maximum three, two-year terms of dedicated service and steady guidance. "I am proud to have seen the agency through the development of Hillside, one of the most innovative projects of its kind in the state," said Bernstein.

Joining the Board this year alongside Cantu are newly appointed Trustees replacing board members Ken Bernstein, Anthony Farmer, Sonnia Ortega, and Noel Santini, MD, who served their respective terms: Jennifer Farmer, PhD of Responsive Education Solutions; Jon Karp, CPA of Whitley Penn; Heather Kitzman, PhD of Parkland Health and UT Southwestern; and Peter Urbanowicz of Alvarez & Marsal. They will be joining existing members Ryan J. Garcia, Crystal Garland, Ivette Marquez, and Jaime Walkowiak, who each bring unique expertise and a shared commitment to community impact.

Metrocare was established in 1967 as Dallas County MHMR and is governed by a nine-member Board of Trustees appointed by the Dallas County Commissioners Court. The Board meets on the fourth Thursday of each month and provides governance to the Chief Executive Officer on decisions that affect the delivery of behavioral healthcare services through Dallas County. 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 59 years, Metrocare has provided a broad array of services from mental health care, services for veterans and their loved ones, accessible pharmacies, homeless outreach, and supportive social services. Metrocare provides specialty mental health services to over 10,000 children and teens and has numerous programs for infants, children, and adults with disabilities, including Early Childhood Intervention, Flourishing Families, Nurturing Parenting, and two specialty autism clinics in Dallas and DeSoto.