



POLICY STATEMENT

Tarrant County Commissioners Court

SUBJECT: Extension of Delivery System Reform Incentive Payment (DSRIP) Program to September 30, 2022

DATE: April 27, 2021 **COURT ORDER NO. _____**

WHEREAS, in December 2011, the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) approved a five-year healthcare funding program through the §1115 waiver and extended it for an additional five-year period in December 2017; and

WHEREAS, that approved program included the Delivery System Reform Incentive Payment (DSRIP) Program that used regional partnerships to enhance healthcare options for uninsured Texans and expand access to care for Tarrant County residents; and

WHEREAS, Tarrant County benefited immensely from the DSRIP program, through a regional partnership of JPS Health Network, Tarrant County Public Health, and MHMR Tarrant, drawing down hundreds of millions of dollars in federal funds since the program's inception that were used to meet the health care needs of Tarrant County residents, provide timely services, and reach our most vulnerable residents; and

WHEREAS, in January of 2021, CMS approved a ten-year, \$100 billion, §1115 waiver extension that transitioned the DSRIP program into a new Public Health Provider charity care pool and directed payment programs for mental health resources; and

WHEREAS, on April 16, 2021, the CMS rescinded the §1115 waiver leaving the previous waiver in effect until its expiration on September 30, 2022, and the DSRIP program expiration on September 30, 2021; and

WHEREAS, if the DSRIP program is not extended to September 30, 2022 or the DSRIP transition program included in the now-rescinded §1115 waiver approved, Tarrant County will lose tens of millions of dollars in healthcare and mental health support funding.

NOW, LET IT BE RESOLVED BY THE TARRANT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT:

THAT the Tarrant County Commissioners Court encourages the Department of Health and Human Services and CMS to expeditiously approve an extension of the DSRIP program to at least September 30, 2022;

THAT the Tarrant County Commissioners Court encourages the Texas Health and Human Services Commission to quickly negotiate with CMS to extend the DSRIP program to at least September 30, 2022 or seek an alternative structure that will allow the programs currently authorized by DSRIP in Tarrant County to continue unabated;

THAT the Tarrant County Commissioners Court requests that the Texas Legislature make available contingency funds to replace those lost by the untimely expiration of the DSRIP program if CMS does not approve an extension of the DSRIP program or authorize an alternative program that will allow existing DSRIP programs to continue;

THAT the Tarrant County Commissioners Court requests that the State of Texas and the Biden Administration work collaboratively for a speedy resolution to the DSRIP program expiration, §1115 waiver extension, and permanent robust healthcare and mental health funding for Tarrant County to continue to expand access to care for Tarrant County residents; and

THAT the Commissioners Court of Tarrant County encourages other Texas County Commissioners Courts, City and Town Councils, the Texas Association of Counties, Conference of Urban Counties, and the County Judges and Commissioners Association to adopt resolutions and statements of support requesting an extension of the DSRIP program through at least September 30, 2022.

THE COMMISSIONERS COURT OF TARRANT COUNTY SUPPORTS THE EXTENSION OF THE DELIVERY SYSTEM REFORM INCENTIVE PAYMENT (DSRIP) PROGRAM TO AT LEAST SEPTEMBER 30, 2022.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, WE HAVE HEREUNTO SET OUR HANDS AND CAUSED THE GREAT SEAL OF TARRANT COUNTY TO BE AFFIXED THIS ___ DAY OF APRIL 2021.

B. Glen Whitley
County Judge

Roy C. Brooks
Commissioner, Precinct 1

Gary Fickes
Commissioner, Precinct 3

Devan Allen
Commissioner, Precinct 2

J.D. Johnson
Commissioner, Precinct 4