

# Resolution



ORDER NO: 2022-1285

DATE: December 6, 2022

STATE OF TEXAS §

COUNTY OF DALLAS §

**BE IT REMEMBERED**, at a regular meeting of the Commissioners Court of Dallas County, Texas, held on the 6th day of December, 2022, on a motion made by Dr. Theresa M. Daniel, Commissioner of District 1, and seconded by Dr. Elba Garcia, Commissioner of District 4, the following Resolution was adopted:

**WHEREAS**, December is HIV/AIDS awareness month that begins with World AIDS Day on December 1<sup>st</sup> but continues throughout the month with events to spread awareness about the virus and try to reduce stigma, help those living with it, and advocate for an urgent response to reduce its impact. This is a time for voices to unite by sharing experiences, remembering those lost, and standing together in the fight against HIV; and

**WHEREAS**, Dallas County residents need to know their status and get tested. There were 20,210 people living with HIV in Dallas County, with 795 people being newly diagnosed in 2021 and 1 in 8 people are living with HIV but don't know it. The COVID-19 epidemic impacted HIV reporting significantly showing that overall new HIV diagnoses declined in 2020 but began to increase again in 2021 highlighting the need for continued community outreach, education and services. The African American population in Dallas County has the highest rate of infection with almost 60%. Transgender women are disproportionately affected by HIV with 18% testing positive. In 2021, the highest number of new HIV diagnoses was for people ages 25 to 34 showing that no one is safe from infection; and

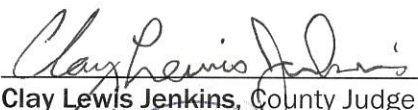
**WHEREAS**, Dallas County Health and Human Services' HIV Early Intervention Clinic offers services to people who are newly diagnosed with HIV and to people who have been living with HIV but have yet to seek medical intervention. Services the clinic offers include a complete evaluation of health status, immunizations and testing for HIV, STDs and Tuberculosis. With the help of the Early Intervention staff, HIV-positive people will learn how to select a primary care provider who can tend to their medical needs. Private individual, couple and family counseling is provided. Targeted community outreach is a priority for Dallas County and through the efforts of the Mobile Medical Unit HIV and STD testing is available in all parts of the County; and

**WHEREAS**, The Dallas County Health and Human Services' HIV Grants division is responsible for administering millions of dollars in federal and state HIV/AIDS grant funding including funds from Ryan White Part A and B and Ryan White Minority AIDS Initiative. This funding allows persons living with HIV/AIDS throughout a 12-county service delivery area to have access to primary medical care through HIV-related health and psycho-social support services; and

**WHEREAS**, The National Institutes of Health recognizes that, despite HIV scientific advances, stigma and discrimination continue to be critical barriers to the reporting and treatment of HIV. By joining the new Ending the HIV Epidemic initiative, Dallas County is taking a stand against the HIV epidemic, to help contribute to a healthier community and improve our residents' overall quality of life. The effort starts by talking about how we can prevent, treat, and end the HIV epidemic in Dallas County by 2030. Some strategies include offering and encouraging education, preventative measures, and free testing.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Dallas County Commissioners Court, with its focus on public health, does hereby recognize December as HIV Awareness Month and encourages everyone to know their status and options for prevention and treatment. The end goal is simple: end new diagnoses by 2030 by following the steps to get to that goal; Test, Talk, Treat.

**DONE IN OPEN COURT**, this the 6th day of December, 2022.

  
Clay Lewis Jenkins, County Judge

  
Dr. Theresa M. Daniel, District 1

  
J. J. Koch, District 2

  
John Wiley Price, District 3

  
Dr. Elba Garcia, District 4