

Resolution



ORDER NO: 2023-1414

DATE: December 5, 2023

STATE OF TEXAS §

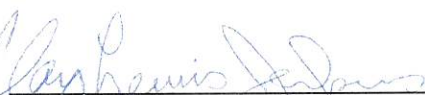
COUNTY OF DALLAS §

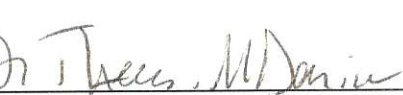
BE IT REMEMBERED, at a regular meeting of the Commissioners Court of Dallas County, Texas, held on the 5th day of December 5, 2023, on a motion made by Dr. Theresa M. Daniel, Commissioner of District 1, and seconded by Dr. Elba Garcia, Commissioner of District 4, the following Resolution was adopted:

- WHEREAS**, December is HIV/AIDS awareness month that begins with World AIDS Day on December 1st, but continues throughout the month with events to spread awareness about the virus in hopes of reducing stigma, helping those living with it, and advocating 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. This year's theme is "World AIDS Day 35: Remember and Commit."; and
- WHEREAS**, Since the mid-1990s, the number of people who are diagnosed with HIV each year has remained relatively stable at about 50,000 per year; However, certain groups, including African Americans, Latinos, and gay and bisexual men of all races/ethnicities continue to be disproportionately affected by HIV; and
- WHEREAS** Dallas County residents need to get tested and know their status. In 2021 there were an estimated 25,451 people living with HIV in Dallas County, representing an increase of 25% since 2019. While new HIV diagnoses in Dallas County remain stable, 57% of new HIV diagnoses were in persons less than 35 years of age, 45% of persons newly diagnosed were African American. While 1.2 million people are living with HIV in the U.S., there are 1 in 8 people who are living with HIV but don't know it. 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 also 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**, With the Ending the HIV Epidemic (EHE) 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. The end goal is simple: end new diagnoses by 2030 by following the steps to get to that goal. Test. Talk. Treat.

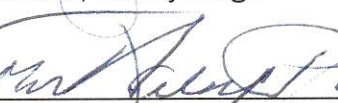
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Dallas County Commissioners Court, with its focus on public health, does hereby recognize December as HIV Awareness Month and encourages everyone to know their status and options for prevention and treatment.

DONE IN OPEN COURT, this the 5th day of December, 2023.


Clay Lewis Jenkins, County Judge


Dr. Theresa M. Daniel, District 1


Andy Sommerman, District 2


John Wiley Price, District 3


Dr. Elba Garcia, District 4