Resolution

ORDER NO: 2026-0453

DATE: April 21, 2026

STATE OF TEXAS §

COUNTY OF DALLAS §

BE IT REMEMBERED, at a regular meeting of the Commissioners Court of Dallas County, Texas, held on the 21st day of April, 2025, with 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:

Autism Awareness and Acceptance Month 2026

WHEREAS, Today Dallas County is moving from autism awareness to autism acceptance and inclusion. We are committed to making sure every autistic resident is seen, respected, and included. That means full participation in our schools and workplaces. We value the talents and perspectives of neurodivergent individuals. We celebrate differences as an essential part of who we are; and

WHEREAS, Autism Spectrum Disorder is a neurodevelopmental condition that affects communication, behavior, and social interaction. In the United States, the most recent CDC data shows that about 1 in 31 children are identified with autism. Boys are still diagnosed more often than girls; and

WHEREAS, Autism is prevalent across all racial and ethnic groups, and recent national surveillance shows that identification rates are now higher among Asian/Pacific Islander (3.8%), American Indian/Alaska Native (3.8%), Black (3.7%), and Hispanic (3.3%) communities than among White communities (2.8%), reflecting significant progress in reaching historically underserved populations; and

WHEREAS, During Autism Awareness and Acceptance Month, Texas' voluntary "Communication Impediment with a Peace Officer" designation highlights a practical way the state supports autistic individuals and others with communication-related disabilities. Added to a driver's license or state ID with medical documentation, it notifies officers that a person may communicate differently so interactions can be handled with greater patience and clarity. This simple step helps reduce stress during traffic stops, reinforces dignity, and encourages more trusting relationships between residents and law enforcement; and

WHEREAS, Metrocare continues to be the trusted Local Intellectual and Developmental Disability Authority for Dallas County. Metrocare operates the Center for Children with Autism. The center serves children aged two to twelve. Families receive evaluations one on one therapy Applied Behavior Analysis and parent coaching. Metrocare helps people and families access services plan for transitions and find support from childhood into adulthood. Metrocare stands with families to help each person reach their full potential.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Dallas County Commissioners Court does hereby recognize the month of April as Autism Awareness and Acceptance Month. We continue to raise awareness and expand access to services for people on the autism spectrum. We will partner with schools to accelerate full inclusion in education, workplaces, and communities, and we urge leaders at every level to take action with us. We are committed to fair treatment, stronger support, and truly listening to autistic individuals and their families in Dallas County.

DONE IN OPEN COURT this the 21st day of April, 2026.

Dr. Theresa M. Daniel,
District 1

Clay Lewis Jenkins,
County Judge

Andrew Sommerman,
District 2

John Wiley Price,
District 3

Dr. Elba Garcia,
District 4