

DR. THERESA DANIEL DALLAS COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 1 NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2017



Dallas County Participates in Data Driven Justice Institute

Dallas County and some key partners were selected to participate in the Data Driven Justice and Behavioral Health Design Institute held in September. The event focused on teaching community leaders how to integrate data from various services sectors, as well as how to make efficient use of limited health, behavioral health, criminal justice, and social support services and resources. The Institute was jointly sponsored by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), the Laura and John Arnold Foundation (LJAF), and the National Association of Counties (NACo).

This Design Institute was designed for high-level decision makers from various Dallas County departments and community partners

to get the information and tools needed to impact health outcomes and reduce jail usage and usage of other Dallas County services.

Dallas County Commissioner Theresa Daniel, CIO Stanley Vitrum, Deputy Chief Jason Hartgraves, Budget Director Ryan Brown, Parkland Dr. Celeste Johnson, North Texas Behavioral Health Association CIO Henson Rogers, IPS Executive Director Enrique Morris, Dallas Police Assistant Chief Paul Stokes, and Interim Director of the Bridge Dr. David Woody were set on a path to do assessments of available resources and to seek providers that can bridge data sharing gaps and get the information needed to make real, systemic change.



Dallas County District 1 September/October Events

Left: Commissioner Theresa Daniel kicks off Addressing Mesquite with Mayor Stan Pickett, Rep. Toni Rose and Rep. Cindy Burkett. **Below (L to R):** Commissioner Daniel digs in to help a Mesquite homeowner; Commissioner speaks at Thanksgiving Square after the Crowe Collection Compassion Walk; Dr. Terry Smith, Dallas County Juvenile Services Executive Director, Commissioner Dr. Theresa Daniel and Dr. John Burruss meet former Cowboy's running back and keynote speaker Emmitt Smith (second from left) at the Metrocare Meals for the Minds Luncheon.



Equifax Data Breach and What To Do

The recent Equifax breach can potentially impact over 140 million of their customers. If you have ever received a credit report from Equifax, there is a good chance that you are impacted. Here are some basic facts about the Equifax breach which have been released to the public.

1. The breach lasted from May to July 2017;
2. Hackers accessed names and Social Security Numbers;
3. Over 200,000 credit card numbers were stolen;
4. The Equifax data breach impacted users in the UK, Canada and the United States; &
5. The impacted systems have been mitigated.

The Dallas County Office of Information Technology recommends that you take the following steps to protect your information and reduce your personal risks:

1. Visit the link www.equifaxsecurity2017.com and click on link "Am I impacted?" from the menu at the top of the web page and then again on the right of the next web page presented. You will need to enter the last six digits of your Social Security card number and your last name. The site will return a message if Equifax believes that your information was part of the data breach. You will then be asked to enroll and monitor your credit.
2. Review your credit report regularly for changes and be attentive to "new accounts" alerts.
3. If there are questionable data on your credit report, notify the credit agency and place a FREEZE on your credit account. The FREEZE will deny access to your credit file by requestors.

4. Change your password to online systems, like your bank account, to a longer one in length. We recommend that you do not use the same password for your online accounts.

5. Be on the alert for phishing emails. If you do not recognize the email, we recommend that you delete the email. If you must open a suspicious email, do not click on any embedded links. Additionally, be on the alert for fake credit monitoring services. There have been reports of an influx of emails requesting consumer's personal information.

6. At some point, we recommend that you request from the United States Internal Revenue Service (IRS) a copy of your recent tax return and validate that it has not been amended without your knowledge.

7. Be on the alert for suspicious U.S. mails that are selling Credit Repair services.

8. Be extra careful with sharing your personal information and entering such things as free "raffles" which offer unbelievable awards. Companies do not give away valuable items just for entering your name in a box.

These recommended steps, added to what you are doing already, should appreciably reduce the negative impact caused by this substantial Equifax breach. Issues related to credit report questions should be directed to Equifax at 1-800-686-5000. The IRS also has a help line for consumers needing help with tax filing related questions at 1-800-829-1040.

Remember, cybersecurity is a shared responsibility.

Texas Conference On Ending Homelessness

Commissioner Dr. Theresa Daniel attended the Annual Texas Conference on Ending Homelessness in Dallas, Oct. 4-6.

Elected officials, joined by federal and state officials, along with service providers spent three days learning, networking, and strategizing around the issue of homelessness in Texas.

On Thursday, Oct 5th, Commissioner Daniel, along with local leaders, participated in a round-table discussion, at Dallas City Hall, with Matthew Doherty, Executive Director of United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH). The "take away" is that Dallas leaders will continue to push for solutions and resources at the local level and look for ways to continue to engage and work with state and federal leaders going forward.

September was Suicide Prevention Awareness Month



Above: Commissioner Theresa Daniel with NAMI Dallas Executive Director Marsha Rodgers. **Right:** Commissioner Daniel reads the annual Suicide Prevention Awareness resolution. Behind her are pairs of shoes representing a life lost to suicide in Dallas last year.

