

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Texas is the fastest growing state in our nation, representing the 2nd largest population; and

WHEREAS, the success, vitality and security of every Texas community depends on the good health and productivity of its citizens; and

WHEREAS, the American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities describes the challenges faced by nearly 1 in 10 families affected by intellectual and developmental disabilities; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Surgeon General reports that 1 in 5 people will have a mental illness in any given year that, if left untreated, can lead to lost productivity, unsuccessful relationships, significant dysfunction and continuing effect on children in their care; and

WHEREAS, studies consistently reaffirm our experience that adults and youth with serious mental illness who do not receive mental health care are twice as likely to spend time in jails and prisons and a high percentage of youth placed on probation are in need of mental health care; and

WHEREAS, an independent evaluation of the Crisis Services Redesign conducted by Texas A & M University found that direct and measurable reductions in the cost of services (including reduced hospitalization) completely covers the cost of the state's investment in the mental health crisis response system; and

WHEREAS, Texas utilizes the foundation of locally governed Community Centers of Texas to manage and deliver services across all 254 counties of our great state for one of the lowest funded disability service systems in the nation; and

WHEREAS, the Community Centers of Texas touch the lives of more than 400,000 Texans with intellectual and developmental disabilities, mental illness and substance use disorders each year; and

WHEREAS, the Community Centers of Texas strengthen and support our communities by delivering services that focus on recovery and self-determination to vulnerable populations; and

WHEREAS, the Burke Center is locally controlled by a Board of Trustees comprised of dedicated volunteers, appointed by County Commissioners' Courts and through this local governance structure has developed and managed a valued, accountable system of public services for the citizens of Angelina, Houston, Jasper, Nacogdoches, Newton, Polk, Sabine, San Augustine, San Jacinto, Shelby, Trinity and Tyler Counties; and

WHEREAS, the Burke Center provides oversight, manages, and delivers community-based services for more than 9900 Texans each year; and

WHEREAS, in serving this vital function the Burke Center employs more than 550 professionals, direct service specialists and administrative personnel, engages a network of private providers and interacts with numerous local businesses for operational support; and

WHEREAS, Burke Center is instrumental in creating and maintaining strong collaborative partnerships throughout the community on behalf of Texans with intellectual and developmental disabilities, mental illness and substance use disorders and their loved ones; and

WHEREAS, Burke Center serves as a catalyst for drawing resources to our community for the purpose of creating an integrated local service delivery system and defrays costs that would otherwise be a burden on local government by leveraging local, state and federal funds; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Polk County supports and recognizes the locally governed Community Center as the most effective and cost efficient means to manage and deliver services for Texans with intellectual and developmental disabilities, serious mental illness and substance use disorders; and

FURTHERMORE, we call on our Texas leaders to maintain their investment in community-based services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, mental illness and substance use disorders, particularly in an economic environment that creates an increased demand on public systems.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the above Proclamation was unanimously adopted on this 10th day of August 2010.

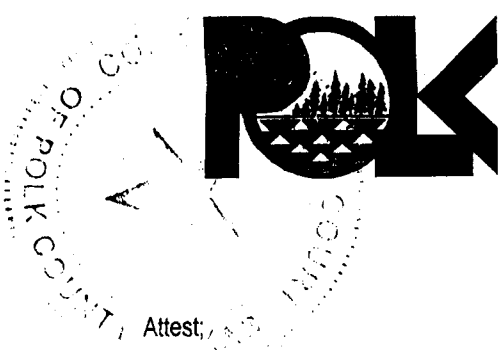
John P. Thompson
John P. Thompson, County Judge

Bob Willis
Robert C. "Bob" Willis, Commissioner Pct. 1

Absent
Ronnie Vincent, Commissioner Pct. 2

Milton Purvis
Milton Purvis, Commissioner Pct. 3

Tommy Overstreet
Charles T. "Tommy" Overstreet, Commissioner Pct. 4



Attest,
Schelana Walker
Schelana Walker, County Clerk