



Nueces County Medical Society

1000 Morgan Avenue · Corpus Christi, TX 78404-2042
Voice: (361) 884-5442 · Fax: (361) 884-5478

November 3, 2020

County Judge Barbara Canales
barbara.canales@nuecesco.com
361-888-0264

The Honorable Judge Canales:

The Nueces County Medical Society Workgroup on mental health has had an opportunity to review the *Meadows Foundation Comprehensive Behavioral Health Community Needs Assessment Revised Draft Report* of July 2020. We applaud the Commissioners Court for commissioning this effort to produce a broad based view of our current, fragmented mental health system coupled with an outline of a “way forward”.

We believe that the report has identified and accurately assessed every major issue. The interviews driving some of the local flavor might have been richer if more practicing psychiatrists had been involved. Our workgroup feels that the bed assessment lacks comment on the seasonal, economic drivers that change the bed/staffing and service make-up of the commercial units in our city. This occasionally leaves important segments of the mental health population unserved locally.

We recognize that this report has been issued in the midst of the national COVID-19 pandemic and during recovery periods for major weather emergencies in our region. It is natural that engagement with the report has been delayed in light of these more pressing issues. Our workgroup stands ready to assist the Commissioners Court and our community in an effort to wrestle with the issues raised by the report and to assure that this solid first step is not “shelved” without response. It is clear from the report that cooperation among multiple entities will be essential if solid progress benefitting our region is to be made.

The Nueces County Medical Society pledges to aid in the recruitment of engaged and appropriate stakeholders for any arm of this effort—from the Leadership Group, the Homeless Planning Group, the Pediatric Provider enrollment in CPAN, or in any other arm of this effort where medical expertise/engagement would be valuable.

Please feel free to contact the Nueces County Medical Society leadership at any time when our effort, support, or expertise could be valuable.

Sincerely,

Marita L. Rafael, MD
President, NCMS
marita_rafael@yahoo.com
361-229-4252

Jack L. Cortese, MD
President Elect, NCMS
jlcortese@aol.com
361-442-5789

Ernest Buck, MD
Chair, NCMS Mental
Health Workgroup
ernestbuck@dchstx.org
361-793-8426

Paulette Shaw
Executive Director
pshaw@nuecesmedsociety.org
361-884-5442

CC: CHRISTUS Spohn-Osbert Blow, MD; Oceans Healthcare-Michelle Lozano; Driscoll Children’s Hospital- Lee Budin, MD, CMO; HCA-Mark Hendricks; Nueces County Hospital District-Jonny Hipp; Nueces Center for Mental Health & Intellectual Disability- Mike Davis.