

Denton County Mental Health and Jail Diversion Center

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Background

- Creation of the Cross Care Collaborative (CCC) in 2023
- CCC found many enforcement interactions for low level calls, charges, and bookings
 - Nearly 1 in 5 new bookings involve individuals charged with low level, nonviolent offenses, many of whom face untreated mental health conditions or housing instability
- This Spring the CCC recommended the establishment of a Denton County Mental Health & Jail Diversion Center Pilot

The Center

- Centralized, 24/7 facility designed to redirect eligible individuals away from jail and into short-term stabilization and community-based services
- Provides law enforcement, courts, and prosecutors with an alternative to arrest while maintaining public safety and accountability through
 - Expedient intake from law enforcement
 - Mental health evaluations
 - Medical triage and short-term stabilization
 - Case management and service navigation
 - Community connections
- Typical length of stay being six hours to 11 days

The Ask

- The joint recommendation of the Behavioral Health Leadership Team and the Housing and Homelessness Leadership Team to develop the pilot
- Denton County and Judge Andy Eads' leading advocacy policy agenda priority in 2026-27
- Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute to help develop a strategic plan, costing \$75,000
- An invitation to join the County's \$45,000 contribution and United Way of Denton County's \$10,000
- Staff recommends approval of \$10,000 from the City of Denton to support the expansion of mental health services in Denton County.



Questions?

