



City of Denton

City Hall
215 E. McKinney Street
Denton, Texas
www.cityofdenton.com

AGENDA INFORMATION SHEET

DEPARTMENT: Community Services

CM/DCM/ACM: Christine Taylor, ACM

DATE: August 4, 2026

SUBJECT

Consider adoption of an ordinance of the City of Denton authorizing the execution of an agreement and the expenditure of General Fund to support the development of a Strategic Plan by the Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute for the 90th Texas State Legislature for the implementation of a Denton County Mental Health & Jail Diversion Center Pilot; authorizing the expenditure of funds in an amount not to exceed \$10,000.00; and providing an effective date.

STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

This action supports Key Focus Area: Foster Economic Opportunity and Affordability.

BACKGROUND

Earlier this year, Denton County's Behavioral Health and Housing & Homelessness Leadership Teams approved a pilot for a Mental Health & Jail Diversion Center. The initiative aims to provide alternatives to incarceration for low-level non-violent offenses, focusing on mental health services. This project is a top advocacy priority for 2026-27. Denton County Commissioners Court and United Way of Denton County (UWDC) have collaborated with the Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute (MMHPI) to create a strategic plan ahead of the Texas State Legislature in January 2027. The proposal submitted by MMHPI includes a \$75,000 engagement cost, with Denton County committing \$45,000, UWDC contributing \$10,000, and local municipalities invited to cover the remaining costs. UWDC will serve as the fiscal agent for the proposal. Denton County and United Way of Denton are inviting Denton County municipalities to join as a funding partner. **(Exhibit 2)**

Meadows Institute Proposal

The Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute has submitted a proposal to assist Denton County in developing a strategic plan for a behavioral health crisis services facility **(Exhibit 2)**. Across Texas, Crisis Facilities have become an important component of the behavioral health continuum of care, with successful models operating in several communities including Austin, Fort Worth, Dallas, Houston, Galveston, Uvalde, Midland, and Amarillo, among others.

Communities that have successfully secured state and federal funding for a Crisis Facility have done so by presenting lawmakers and other funders with a clear plan for the facility's scope, operations, and budget, along with documented support from key stakeholders, including law enforcement, prosecutors, courts, providers, elected officials, and individuals with lived experience. A formal written strategic plan can help Denton County leadership navigate the steps needed to develop, fund, and implement a Crisis Facility.

Meadows Institute Experience

The Meadows Institute is an independent and nonpartisan organization focused on creating equitable systemic changes in health care. It provides data-driven policy guidance to leaders and emphasizes early intervention for children and families, addressing mental health crises, and supporting recovery for individuals with mental health needs. More information is available at their website, <https://mmhpi.org>.

FISCAL INFORMATION

The City of Denton will contribute \$10,000 in FY2025-26 General Funds for the Strategic Plan.

EXHIBITS

Exhibit 1 – Agenda Information Sheet

Exhibit 2 – Ordinance and Proposal

Respectfully submitted:
Jesse Kent
Director of Community Services

Prepared by:
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