

The care and treatment of persons with mental illness, behavioral-health issues, or an intellectual or developmental disability is a community-wide challenge. Some persons with mental illness are charged with serious offenses and should be in custody in the county jail. The county jail needs an infirmary with sufficient mental-health beds, staff, training, and policies, for this purpose. But peace officers also arrest persons with mental illness on low-level, non-violent, misdemeanor charges, and these persons should be diverted from the jail when diversion is safe. A county needs mental-health beds and resources for these persons as well. In fact, a sufficient healthcare infrastructure is critical to a successful diversion program. A community-based work group should have valuable insight and be able to make important contributions to improving the County's care for persons with mental illness, including enhancing the diversion system. Again, Sheriff Jim Skinner looks forward to participating with the group.

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<sup>i</sup> See, e.g., [Collin County, RFQ No. 2019-021](#), Professional Services, Architectural, Adult Detention Center Assessment and Design Services (issued Nov. 6, 2018).

<sup>ii</sup> See [Collin County Commissioners Court Agenda, AI-50309](#), American Rescue Plan Funds, Administrative Services (June 7, 2021); [Capital Projects Feb. 2021](#),

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