

RESOLUTION NO.

WHEREAS, according to Austin Travis County Integral Care (ATCIC), 25.7% of all adults have a serious mental illness, between 38%-51% of people with lifetime addictions will suffer from a mental illness, 68% of adults with mental disorders also have more than one medical condition, and 29% of adults with medical disorders also have a co-morbid mental disorder; and

WHEREAS, data gathered from the Austin/Travis County Department of Health and Human Services (HHSD) suggests that there are numerous critical community needs including the need to provide innovative community-based platforms to address overall healthcare quality and access, particularly in indigent and uninsured populations; and

WHEREAS, HHSD data shows several needs regarding behavioral health including quality of services, access and affordability for minorities and the uninsured, a shortage in mental and behavioral health practitioners; the need to address the barriers which lead to behavioral health care aversion, especially among minority populations; and the need to address cultural, lingual and ethnic diversity among the mental and behavioral health provider workforce; and

WHEREAS, in response to these urgent needs, Huston-Tillotson University (HT) is endeavoring to build a Community Health and Wellness Center (Center) to serve both the HT campus needs and the citizens in the surrounding communities; and

WHEREAS, the facility will house the academic and sponsored research components of the University, as well as position the institution to fulfill an urgent need for access to physical and mental health care, prevention and wellness education; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Center, will strategically build on the strengths of the University while simultaneously allowing for the engagement with key health care and social service providers and strategic community stakeholders to form a powerful health care delivery platform; and

WHEREAS, Phase 1 of the Center will include a 12,000 square foot structure which has an estimated cost of \$1.5 million; and

WHEREAS, HT was invited to apply for grant funding from St. David's Capital Access Grant and Healthy Minds Grant programs, but both grant timelines won't be awarded until the summer of 2015; and

WHEREAS, HT has approximately \$200,000 in private alumni funding available for the project; and

WHEREAS, the City's Health and Human Services Department partnered with HT in a contract for \$20,000 to assist with Phase 1, which included bringing Dr. William Lawson, the Chair of Psychiatry at Howard University Medical Center, and his team for the "21st Century Solutions-Based Listening Tour Addressing East Austin's Mental Health Crisis;" and

WHEREAS, HT has continued conversations with Dr. William Lawson in an effort to recruit him to manage the facility; and

WHEREAS, during the Fiscal Year 2013-14 budget process, City Council approved \$250,000 for the first phase, the City of Austin Health and Human Services Department is currently drafting a contract to administer this funding and there could be an opportunity to amend this contract to add additional one-time funding during this fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, \$850K of additional financial assistance from the City would

provide the resources HT needs to open the Center and begin serving the community in a timely manner; and

WHEREAS, if funding can't be identified in the FY 2013-14 budget, there may be opportunities to identify funding as part of the upcoming budget process or work with HT to provide repayment of the funds in accordance with state law; and

WHEREAS, for Council to make an informed decision, the Council would need a full menu of funding options for FY 2013-14, FY 2014-15, and different repayment possibilities of the funds by HT; and

WHEREAS, additionally the Council would need to understand HT's long term financial plans for the infrastructure and their ongoing operating costs; and

WHEREAS, based on the information and data cited in the previous recitals of this Resolution, there is clearly a public need and municipal benefit for the construction and support of the Center, for possible job creation and overall economic development of the City by having a healthy citizenry; and

WHEREAS, there could also be opportunities to partner or provide resources on an ongoing basis in addition to assisting with funding for Phase 1;
NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

The City Manager is directed to explore funding options in the Fiscal Year 2013-14 and 2014-15 budget to allocate an additional \$850,000 in one-time funds and/or repayment options of the funds by Huston-Tillotson for Phase 1 of Huston-Tillotson's Community Health and Wellness Center in accordance with applicable state law, including available economic development mechanisms, and identify other opportunities to partner or provide additional resources on an ongoing basis

for programming at the Community Health and Wellness Center.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED

The City Manager is directed to prepare the menu of potential funding and repayment options for Council consideration by August 7, 2014, and work with Huston-Tillotson to include their long term financial plans for the infrastructure and their ongoing operating costs as part of the financial presentation to Council.

ADOPTED: June 26, 2014

ATTEST: _____
Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk