

RESOLUTION NO. 20141211-111

WHEREAS, the City of Austin seeks to address issues associated with mental health through active engagement with Austin/Travis County Integral Care, and local social service and housing providers; and

WHEREAS, since 1861, the City of Austin has been home to a state owned mental health facility at the Austin State Hospital (ASH), which is one of eleven inpatient facilities within the Texas Department of State Health Services and provides care to a 38 county service area that includes over three million people; and

WHEREAS, ASH provides inpatient care for 300 clients with acute psychiatric illnesses with visits that range from a few days to several weeks in order to stabilize patients so clients can return to their communities to receive ongoing outpatient services; and

WHEREAS, discharged clients of ASH, by choice or by a lack of community to return to, can oftentimes remain in Austin; and

WHEREAS, ASH and Austin Travis County Integral Care work together on continuity of care planning to connect individuals leaving ASH with ongoing mental or behavioral health supports and other social and housing services; and

WHEREAS, there is insufficient permanent supportive and affordable housing within Austin which can leave some clients at risk for homelessness; and

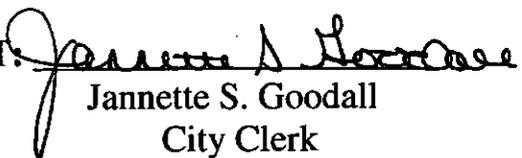
WHEREAS, there are gaps in the continuity of care for many clients discharged from ASH and some social service providers are limited to providing services only to those with established Austin or Travis County residency; and

WHEREAS, continued effort to expand the availability of affordable housing with support services and ensuring strong coordination between ASH, Austin Travis County Integral Care and local social services, including those focused on serving the homeless, could prevent clients being discharged into homelessness; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

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

The City Manager is directed to convene social service providers and other stakeholders on strategies to improve the local client's connection to services prior to discharge from state owned mental health facilities and report back to council with their findings.

ADOPTED: December 11, 2014

ATTEST: 
Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk