

# Collin County Diversion Center Proposal

## Expanding Local Options for People in Crisis

Key local partners in Collin County came together to support planning for a diversion center to: (1) reduce pressure on jails, law enforcement and emergency departments in responding to people in a behavioral health crisis; and (2) increase connections to appropriate mental health care and other supports in less costly and restrictive settings.

Like counties across Texas, Collin County struggles to address the increasing number of people with mental illness and co-occurring substance use disorders in the criminal justice system and local emergency departments. There is consensus that the fiscal costs and social impact of this issue are great and need to be addressed. As part of funds received from Collin County Commissioners Court, an initial \$1,690,849 was allocated as contractual match dollars for the crisis center, which will be embedded in the Collin County Diversion Center in McKinney, Texas.

The new center will expand existing crisis services through the construction of a 110,000 square foot facility on land provided by the Commissioners Court. The diversion center will offer expanded access to crisis services that help divert people from less effective options, such as hospital emergency departments and more expensive levels of care (e.g., inpatient psychiatric beds).

The new facility will also include 11,000 square feet of unfinished shell space which will allow LifePath Systems to better meet the growing need for behavioral health services in the county and to continue to apply for, obtain, and quickly roll out new programs as state, federal, and grant funding becomes available.



3,268

*Estimated incarcerations of persons with mental illness in Collin County in FY2023.*



\$10,089,671

*Average estimated cost of incarceration of people with mental illness in Collin County for FY2023.*

Data pulled from HHSC [All Texas Access Dashboards](#). The data and costs are estimates based on the All Texas Access methodology. This data is not real-time and should not be interpreted as such. For full information on methodology, see latest All Texas Access report [here](#).

### *Incarceration Methodology:*

**Number of people with mental illness in county jail:** The number of people with mental illness in county jails was built from an estimate of the number of people in jails who have received a service from a local mental health authority or local behavioral health authority. To estimate the number of incarcerated people with a mental illness, an average of the monthly jail census was calculated based on the TCIS Abbreviated Population Reports.

**Cost of incarceration data:** County jails do not uniformly collect data on the cost of incarcerating people with mental illness; therefore, a cost model was built based on the statewide average daily cost per bed, average length of stay per person, match between TLETS and CMBHS, and jail population data.

## Statement of Need

Collin County is one of the fastest growing areas in the country with an estimated population of 1,126,000 in 2022 – equating to 2.78% annual growth rate – and is currently the sixth most populous county in Texas. According to the Texas Demographic Center, there will be over 2.4 million residents by 2050, more than twice the amount of the population in 2022.

As the county population grows, so too does the need for access to essential community-based mental health and substance use services. In fiscal year 2023, LifePath Systems provided behavioral health services for 11,376 people, a 16.8% increase from fiscal year 2022. In both years, most people served were adults enrolled by the mobile crisis outreach team, which saw a sharp increase from 1,177 people in fiscal year 2022 to 2,028 people in fiscal year 2023, showing there is a growing demand for crisis response services.

While LifePath focuses on serving residents of Collin County, the organization served people from 57 different counties in fiscal year 2023, compared to 28 counties in fiscal year 2022. The percentage of people without addresses also increased from 6.8% to 8.7% for the same period, indicating there is a growing population of people without permanent housing or who are unsheltered.

For those experiencing behavioral health crises, LifePath Systems is often the only answer. Limited state funds are available to place indigent people into a psychiatric inpatient bed, which is the most expensive level of care. Many people in crisis can be stabilized in a lower level of care, such as a crisis residential facility. However, keeping up with the demand for these crisis alternative services can be a challenge, especially with limited space available.

The total construction cost of the project is currently estimated at \$46 million, which includes construction (\$42,000,000), office furnishings (\$1,000,000), fixtures, IT equipment, signage, and other miscellaneous costs (\$3,000,000). LifePath Systems Board of Trustees has approved \$30 million of designated reserved funds towards the project. While this is a significant investment by LifePath Systems, the project requires \$16 million in funding from other sources to help ensure future funds can be fully allocated to the expansion of services.

## **Collin County Diversion Center Goals**

The Collin County Diversion Center will provide an additional option for serving people in crisis. If successful, the diversion center will:

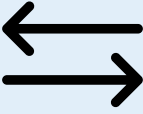


- Divert people with behavioral health needs from jails. LifePath established a target of diverting 500 people each fiscal year based on historical data from local law enforcement.
- Minimize law enforcement officer wait and drive times related to incidents involving a person experiencing a behavioral health crisis or who may have committed a criminal offense due to a behavioral health condition. The diversion center will begin monitoring law enforcement wait times at arrival to work towards achieving an average wait time of less than 15 min.
- Reduce recidivism of diversion center participants, which is defined as a reduction in the number of rearrests or returns to the local county jail. The diversion center will track arrests of people arriving by law enforcement drop-off for one year with a goal of preventing 70% of those served from rearrest post diversion center triage.
- Increase adherence to outpatient, recovery-oriented services and support. The diversion center will work towards connecting people to outpatient services in an average of 14 days or less, with at least 70% of people actively participating in recovery services at 6 months post-triage.

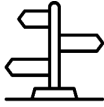


## **Design and Services**

Collin County is building a 110,000 square foot facility on land provided by the Collin County Commissioners Court on a long-term (65 years), low-cost (\$10 per year) land lease. Beck Architecture, Cross Engineering, and Rogers O'Brien Construction were selected for design and construction of the building at the corner of Bloomdale and Community. The building is located across the street from the Collin County Administration Building and the Collin County Sheriff's Department and Correctional Facility. The location of the new facility was chosen to maximize law enforcement's ability to divert people with serious mental illnesses from the jail.

The new facility will also include 11,000 square feet of unfinished shell space which will allow growth and expansion when additional opportunities and funding are obtained.

**Table 1. Service Array and Staffing**

Service	Description	Staffing
<p><b>Crisis Triage</b></p> 	<p>The crisis triage will allow law enforcement to bring people in for a quick decision on their mental health status.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LPHA</li> <li>• QMHP with expertise in mental health crisis</li> <li>• Psychiatrist</li> <li>• Nurse</li> <li>• Transportation</li> <li>• Security/law enforcement</li> </ul>
<p><b>Behavioral Health Crisis Services</b></p> 	<p>Crisis services includes a 16-bed Extended Observation Unit (EOU), a 28-bed Crisis Respite Unit (CRU), mobile crisis outreach teams (MCOT), and a crisis triage area. Facility will be open 24-hours a day, 7 days a week to assess people in a mental health crisis. The EOU and CRU are intended as an alternative for those who do not require a higher level of care (i.e. psychiatric hospitalization) or for those whose needs may be better met at the facility than in jail.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RN (24/7)</li> <li>• QMHP (24/7)</li> <li>• Psychiatry (24/7)</li> <li>• LPCs</li> <li>• Triage Coordinator (24/7)</li> <li>• Director of Behavioral Health Crisis Services</li> <li>• Peers</li> <li>• Crisis Support Staff</li> </ul>
<p><b>Behavioral Health Jail Diversion Services</b></p> 	<p>Jail Diversion services will accommodate walk-in assessments, and specialized teams to work with people brought in by law enforcement to provide access to treatment and services in lieu of jail booking when appropriate.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Program Administrator of Diversion Center</li> <li>• Director of Behavioral Health Crisis Services</li> <li>• Fiscal Contract Coordinator</li> </ul>

Service	Description	Staffing
<p><b>Intensive Behavioral Health Services</b></p> 	<p>Other intensive services include the Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) team and Continuity of Care team.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Director of Adult Behavioral Health Services</li> <li>• Program Administrator of Intensive Services</li> <li>• LPHA</li> <li>• QMHPs</li> <li>• RN</li> <li>• Peer Support</li> </ul>
<p><b>Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Authority Services</b></p> 	<p>IDD service providers will relocate to the diversion center campus.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IDD Crisis Intervention Staff</li> <li>• IDD Direct Support Professionals</li> </ul>
<p><b>Administrative Offices</b></p> 	<p>Administrative offices will relocate to the diversion center campus.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CEO Office</li> <li>• Executive Offices</li> <li>• Human Resources</li> <li>• Facilities Management</li> <li>• Purchasing Department</li> <li>• Fiscal Department</li> <li>• IT Department</li> </ul>
<p><b>Future Space</b></p>	<p>Diversion center contains future space to expand services as additional funding becomes available.</p>	

## Financing and Governance

The total construction cost of the project is currently estimated at \$46 million, which includes construction (\$42,000,000), office furnishings (\$1,000,000), fixtures, IT equipment, signage, and other miscellaneous costs (\$3,000,000). LifePath Systems board of Trustees approved \$30 million of designated reserved funds towards the project. While this is a

significant investment, the project requires \$16 million in funding from other sources to help ensure future funds can be fully allocated to the expansion of services.

**Table 2. Proposed Budget**

Category	Est. Cost	Funding Source
<b>Staffing</b>		
5 On-Call Licensed Professional of Healing Arts and Management	\$400,000	
25 Qualified Mental Health Professionals	\$1,130,000	
On-call Psychiatrist and 10 hours/week	\$250,000	
10 Direct Care Staff, 24/7	\$870,000	
5.5 Medical Personnel (RN, LVN)	\$400,000	
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$3,050,000</b>	<b>\$ committed</b>
<b>Operations</b>		
Ongoing Facility Maintenance, Operations, IT Support	\$2,000,000	
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$2,000,000</b>	<b>\$ committed</b>
<b>Total Annual Costs</b>	<b>\$5,050,000</b>	

Ongoing sustainability for the next phases of the diversion center will be sought from federal, state, and philanthropic grants, private donations, and in-kind services.

## **Stakeholder Engagement and Partnerships**

Ongoing community collaboration and stakeholder engagement will be key to the success of the diversion center. While there are primary stakeholders who will have direct involvement with the center’s funding, planning, and service provision, there are several others who should be kept informed and engaged on center updates, center outcomes, and

other opportunities to improve access to care and reduce justice involvement and unnecessary emergency department utilization for people with mental illnesses, substance use disorders, and intellectual and developmental disabilities. These stakeholders include:

- LifePath Systems
- Collin County Sheriff's Office
- Collin County Jail and jail medical provider
- Collin County DA
- Collin County Commissioner's Court
- Collin County CSCD
- Municipal police departments including but not limited to McKinney, Plano, Frisco, Allen, Josephine, and Wylie
- Local hospital systems, including but not limited to Medical City McKinney and Baylor, Scott and White
- Local courts
- Collin County Homeless Coalition
- NAMI North Texas
- Coalition for Behavioral Health in Collin County