

**RESOLUTION & ORDER
OF THE COMMISSIONERS COURT OF WEBB COUNTY, TEXAS**

ADOPTED November 17, 2016

**SUPPORTING WEBB COUNTY'S PRIORITY LEGISLATIVE AGENDA
FOR THE 85TH LEGISLATURE**

WHEREAS, the Webb County Commissioners Court has adopted a local policy that proposed legislation affecting county government should be brought before the Commissioners Court for consideration and possible action to adopt an official position; and

WHEREAS, the Webb County Commissioners Court has appointed a Legislative Affairs Committee to identify, analyze and recommend priority legislation to address matters of public interest or the enhancement of county government; and

WHEREAS, the county's Legislative Affairs Committee has petitioned the participation of local elected officials and department heads in the development of a proposed legislative agenda; and

WHEREAS, the Legislative Affairs Committee has identified and presented key issues to the Webb County Commissioners Court for consideration in the county's legislative agenda.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Commissioners Court of Webb County, that:

- I. The Webb County Commissioners Court hereby adopts the following to be included in Webb County's State Legislative Agenda 2017:

Health & Safety

1. Eliminate Conflicts for Disposal of Unidentified Human Remains
2. Continuation of Certain Public Benefits for Persons Incarcerated in County Jails
3. Mandatory Municipal Solid Waste Services in the ETJ by Counties
4. Permitting of Municipal Solid Waste Disposal Sites Located in Floodplains

Local Government

5. Expand the Applicability of the Open Meetings Act to all Boards and Commissions Relating to County Government Matters
6. Include an Alternate for the Removal of a County Auditor
7. Modify the Setting of Salaries for County Auditor and Assistants to Ensure Conformity with Locally Adopted Wage & Classification Pay Plans
8. Expansion of Authorities for Veterans Housing Projects
9. Expansion of Colonia Self-help Center Programs
10. Hours of Work of County Employees
11. Limited Ordinance-making Authority for Counties

Natural Resources

12. Mineral Use of Subdivided Land (Chapter 92, Natural Resources Code)

- I. The Commissioners Court hereby directs the Legislative Affairs Committee to prepare the legislative agenda for submission to our state legislators; and
- II. Through this Resolution & Order, the Webb County Commissioners Court respectfully requests the support of our State Legislators to enact passage of the county's priority legislation for 2017.

On motion of **Honorable Judge Tijerina**, seconded by **Honorable Commissioner Galo**, duly put and carried, **THIS RESOLUTION & ORDER IS HEREBY ADOPTED** by the Webb County Commissioners Court, duly convened and acting in its capacity as governing body of Webb County, Texas on this **17th** day of **November, 2016**.



Honorable Tano E. Tijerina
Webb County Judge



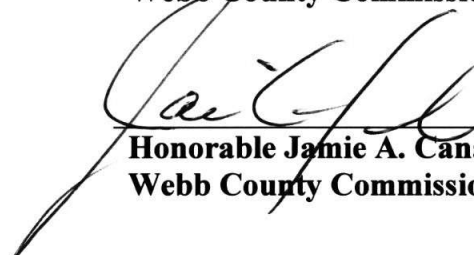
Honorable Frank J. Sciaraffa
Webb County Commissioner Pct. 1



Honorable Rosaura "Wawi" Tijerina
Webb County Commissioner Pct. 2



Honorable John C. Galo
Webb County Commissioner Pct. 3



Honorable Jamie A. Canales
Webb County Commissioner Pct. 4

APPROVED AS TO FORM:


Honorable Marco A. Montemayor
Webb County Attorney

ATTESTED:



Honorable Margie Ramirez Ibarra
Webb County Clerk



**RESOLUTION
OF THE COMMISSIONERS COURT OF WEBB COUNTY, TEXAS**

ADOPTED November 17, 2016

**Supporting Webb County's Priority Legislative Agenda to the 85th Legislature
Relating to Medicaid Benefits Suspension**

Whereas, the growing number of persons with a mental illness being detained in county jails has resulted in profound increases in county jail costs while poorly serving the needs of health needs of these individuals; and

Whereas, this change has resulted in counties taking new approaches and broadening services to many inmates; and

Whereas, Medicaid eligibility is automatically terminated upon an individual's detention or incarceration in a county jail, but termination is not required by federal law; and

Whereas, upon release, former inmates must submit a new application for Medicaid enrollment and it can take months for benefits to be restored. Such disruptions in care increase an individual's risk of recidivism, re-incarceration and mortality post-release and ultimately increase costs for counties; and

Whereas, swift reinstatement of health care benefits upon release provides for more effective re-entry into the community and promotes the continuity of care for substance abuse disorders, behavioral health issues and other chronic health conditions; and


Whereas, as of December 2014, 12 states had a policy to suspend instead of terminating Medicaid coverage when an individual is incarcerated or detained and the Federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has encouraged states to end the practice of terminating benefits; and

Whereas, suspension of benefits, rather than termination, can only happen if the Sheriff personnel operating the jail take on some new reporting requirements to the State;


NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Commissioners Court of Webb County supports the passage of legislation that will, on local option of the Sheriff, allow the Sheriff to timely provide information to the State regarding persons booked into county jail resulting in suspension of the inmates' Medicaid benefits rather than termination.

On motion of **Honorable Judge Tijerina**, seconded by **Honorable Commissioner Galo**, duly put and carried, **THIS RESOLUTION IS HEREBY ADOPTED** by the Webb County

Commissioners Court, duly convened and acting in its capacity as governing body of Webb County, Texas on this 17th day of November, 2016.



Honorable Iano E. Tijerina
Webb County Judge



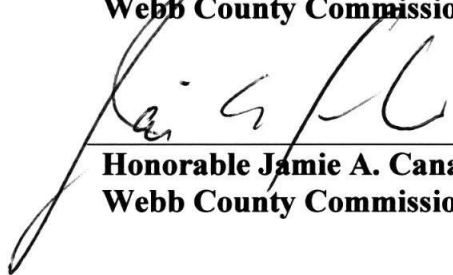
Honorable Frank J. Sciaraffa
Webb County Commissioner Pct. 1




Honorable Rosaura "Wawi" Tijerina
Webb County Commissioner Pct. 2




Honorable John C. Galo
Webb County Commissioner Pct. 3



Honorable Jamie A. Canales
Webb County Commissioner Pct. 4

APPROVED AS TO FORM:


Honorable Marco A. Montemayor
Webb County Attorney

ATTESTED:


Honorable Margie Ramirez Ibarra
Webb County Clerk



RESOLUTION ON MEDICAID BENEFITS SUSPENSION LEGISLATION

WHEREAS, the growing number of persons with a mental illness being detained in county jails has resulted in profound increases in county jail costs while poorly serving the health needs of these individuals; and

WHEREAS, this change has resulted in counties taking new approaches and broadening services to many inmates; and

WHEREAS, Medicaid eligibility is automatically terminated upon an individual's detention or incarceration in a county jail, but termination is not required by federal law; and

WHEREAS, upon release, former inmates must submit a new application for Medicaid enrollment and it can take months for benefits to be restored. Such disruptions in care increase an individual's risk of recidivism, re-incarceration and mortality post-release and ultimately increase costs for counties; and

WHEREAS, swift reinstatement of health care benefits upon release provides for more effective re-entry into the community and promotes the continuity of care for substance abuse disorders, behavioral health issues and other chronic health conditions; and

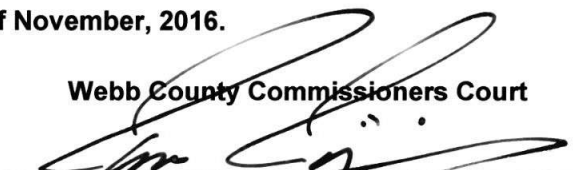
WHEREAS, as of December 2014, 12 states had a policy to suspend instead of terminate Medicaid coverage when an individual is incarcerated or detained and the Federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has encouraged states to end the practice of terminating benefits; and

WHEREAS, on local option of the Sheriff, personnel operating the jail can provide timely information to the State regarding persons booked into county jail that will result in suspension of benefits, rather than termination;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Commissioners Court of Webb County, that Webb County supports the passage of legislation that will result in suspension of inmates' Medicaid benefits rather than termination, with benefits resuming upon discharge from incarceration.

ADOPTED this 17th day of November, 2016.

Webb County Commissioners Court




Honorable Tano E. Tijerina
County Judge



Honorable Frank Sciaraffa
Commissioner Pct. 1



Honorable Rosaura Wawi' Tijerina
Commissioner Pct. 2



Honorable John C. Galo
Commissioner Pct. 3



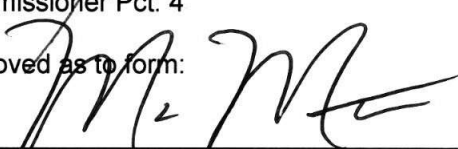
Honorable Jaime Canales
Commissioner Pct. 4

Attested by:

Approved as to form:



Honorable Margie Ramirez Ibarra
County Clerk



Honorable Marco Montemayor
County Attorney

