

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Wayne Young Appointed as New CEO of  
The Harris Center for Mental Health and IDD**

HOUSTON – September 26, 2017 – The Harris Center for Mental Health and IDD (The Harris Center) has announced the appointment of Wayne Young, MEd, MBA, LPC, FACHE, as the Agency’s new Chief Executive Officer (CEO). Mr. Young will join The Harris Center full-time on December 4, 2017. He will succeed Steven B. Schnee, PhD, who will retire after serving in this capacity for 25 years.

“Wayne is a dynamic leader who brings a wealth of knowledge and experience. I am confident that he is the person we need to lead The Harris Center into the future,” said Jon R. Keeney, Chairperson of The Harris Center Board of Trustees.

Mr. Young currently serves as the Senior Vice President of Behavioral Health and Administrator of Trinity Springs Pavilion and Trinity Springs North for JPS Health Network in Ft. Worth, Texas. Prior to joining JPS, he served as the regional executive director of a managed behavioral healthcare organization and also held other leadership positions within the behavioral health and insurance industries. In addition, Mr. Young has served on numerous boards, including those of the Institute for Behavioral Health Improvement and Mental Health America of Tarrant County, and he is active in various professional organizations, such as the American Hospital Association, the Texas Hospital Association, and the Texas Health and Human Services Commission Behavioral Health Advisory Council.

Mr. Young received a Bachelor of Science in Human Development and Family Studies as well as a Master of Education in Community Counseling from Texas Tech University. Subsequently, he completed a Master of Business Administration degree with a concentration in Healthcare Administration from the University of Dallas. He is a Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC), a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor (CRC), and a Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives (FACHE).

The Harris Center, Harris County’s state-designated Local Mental Health Authority and Local Intellectual and Developmental Authority, provided mental health and intellectual and developmental disability services to 51,518 unduplicated individuals in Harris County in Fiscal Year 2016 through its four service divisions: Mental Health Outpatient Services, Mental Health Forensic Services, Intellectual Disability and Autism Services, and Comprehensive Psychiatric Emergency Program. The Agency also served over 18,000 individuals in the Harris County Jail through its contract with the Harris County Sheriff’s Office. As the largest behavioral and developmental disability care center in Texas, The Harris Center strives to provide high quality, efficient, and cost effective services so that persons with mental disabilities may live with dignity as fully functioning, participating, and contributing members of our community.

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