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Renae Vania Tomczak

November 12, 2025

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of Mental Health America (MHA) of Greater Houston, I am writing to express our enthusiastic support for Harris Health's proposal to acquire 8.9 acres of land adjacent to Ben Taub Hospital. This expansion is not only timely—it is essential to meeting the growing and complex healthcare needs of Harris County, including those in the critical area of mental health.

As the region's leading nonprofit dedicated to advancing mental health through education, advocacy, and connection to care, MHA of Greater Houston has long worked alongside Harris Health and other community partners to strengthen the continuum of care. We know firsthand that Ben Taub Hospital serves as a lifeline for individuals in crisis and a cornerstone of our county's health care safety net. Yet it continues to operate at or beyond capacity, including within its psychiatric care unit. The shortage of mental health resources across our community—combined with rising demand—underscores the urgency of this expansion.

This land acquisition will enable Harris Health to grow its capacity, deepen the integration of behavioral and medical care, and strengthen the continuum of services for those most in need. This investment is a vital commitment to improving health outcomes and building a healthier, more resilient Harris County.

We commend Harris Health for its leadership, foresight, and unwavering commitment to community well-being. Mental Health America of Greater Houston strongly urges city and county leaders to approve and advance this proposal without delay. Together, we can ensure that lifesaving mental health services remain accessible, responsive, and sustainable for every individual and family in our community.

Thank you for your continued commitment to the health and well-being of Harris County residents. Should you have questions, please feel free to reach out to me at 713.520.3474 or [renae@mhahouston.org](mailto:renae@mhahouston.org).

Sincerely,



Renae J. Vania Tomczak, MBA  
President & CEO