



HILL COUNTRY MHDD CENTERS

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Chair:
*Commissioner
Donna Eccleston*

Vice-Chair:
Mr. Joe Lovelace

Secretary/Treasurer:
Judge Laura Allen

Judge Herb Senne

Judge Souli Shanklin

Judge Tom Pollard

Judge Brett Bray

*Mr. Wallace
Whitworth*

Judge Chris Schuchart

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Ross C. Robinson

COUNTIES SERVED:

*Bandera, Blanco,
Comal, Edwards,
Gillespie, Hays,
Kendall, Kerr,
Kimble, Kinney,
Llano, Mason,
Medina, Menard,
Real, Schleicher,
Sutton, Uvalde,
and Val Verde*

June 13, 2017

Jeffrey Wagers, CTCM
HHSC-ECI
6330 Highway 290 East
Suite 300; MC 3029
Austin, TX 7823

RE: 120-Day Notice of Contract Termination

Dear Mr. Wagers:

On March 24, 2017, I wrote Mr. Travis Duke to inform him that Hill Country MHDD Centers (Hill Country or the Center) was seriously contemplating termination of our Contract with the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) to provide Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) Services. At that time, we were following the 85th Session of the Texas Legislature very closely to learn if any funding decisions would be made that would ameliorate the increasing financial shortfall that we are experiencing with the provision of ECI services.

While the Legislature approved some positive changes to the budget, those unfortunately were not substantial enough to compensate for the deficits that we now experience related to previous funding and policy decisions. Specifically, and as I cited in my previous letter, we cannot overcome the rate reduction in per child expenses, the lack of funding to cover services that we provide to children and families who are beyond our funded target numbers, and the rate reductions for Medicaid-funded therapies.

Considering these factors, the Hill Country Board of Trustees (Board) has authorized me to provide you with our formal 120-day notice of contract termination, effective as of the date of this letter, for HHSC Contract No: **538-13-7777-0000000000059**, Early Childhood Intervention Services. This is a difficult and painful decision for our Board and for the leadership of the Center, but it is one that we no longer can avoid. Hill Country accordingly will cease the provision of all ECI services as of five p.m. on October 11, 2017.

Hill Country will work closely with HHSC during this time period to effect a transition of services that is as seamless as possible. It has been a privilege to serve the children and families of our 15-county ECI catchment area for these many years.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ross C. Robinson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ross C. Robinson, MBA MA
Executive Director
Hill Country MHDD Centers

Cc: Commissioner Donna Eccleston, Chair, Board of Trustees
Travis Duke, HHSC Associate Director for Early Childhood Intervention Services
Sonja Gaines, HHSC Associate Commissioner for IDD/Behavioral Health Services
Paula Paddock, Director of IDD Provider Services, Hill Country MHDD Centers