Letter of Support for a Mental Health Hospital in Brazoria County

Please review the below. Your organization can either place this language on a letterhead or complete the <u>survey</u> to be added to the list of supporters. This information is based on the <u>Pearland Chamber's Mental Health Study Evaluation</u>.

Please return pdf version of signed letter to Jim.Johnson@PearlandChamber.org

Dear State Legislators,

We, <u>INSERT NAME</u>, are writing to express our strong and unified support for the development and creation of a **Mental Health Crisis Center** in Brazoria County. This initiative is a critical step in addressing the growing mental health and substance abuse crisis facing our community, as evidenced by the increasing rates of mental distress, substance abuse disorders, and suicide.

Brazoria County is experiencing a significant shortage of mental health services, **including zero dedicated psychiatric inpatient beds.** This has left many vulnerable individuals without the immediate care they need, forcing them to seek assistance outside the county, or worse, to go without any care at all. Data shows that the **demand for psychiatric services in Brazoria County will rise by nearly 50% over the next decade**, yet we are ill-prepared to meet this need without proper facilities and resources.

The Mental Health Crisis Center will not only provide urgent inpatient care but will also alleviate the pressure on local hospitals, law enforcement, emergency services, and educational institutions, all of which are currently overwhelmed by the demands of mental health crises. Additionally, this facility will enable a more comprehensive approach to care, including outpatient services, substance abuse disorder treatment, and community-based programs that can serve as preventative measures.

Optional: Insert local organizational data or example of how it would it beneficial your organization.

By supporting this initiative, we believe we can dramatically improve access to life-saving mental health care for individuals and families in our community. The benefits of such a center are not limited to healthcare alone. This facility will have a positive impact on the local economy, reducing absenteeism in the workplace and fostering a healthier, more resilient community.

We urge our state leaders to prioritize this project and allocate the necessary \$115,000,000 in funding and resources to make this facility a reality. We are committed to working together, alongside healthcare providers, schools, law enforcement, and other community organizations, to ensure the success of this critical initiative.

Together, we can take meaningful steps toward addressing the mental health crisis in Brazoria County, ensuring that no one falls through the cracks in their time of need.