



RESOLUTION NO. 23-29

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF MEMORANDUM OF
UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN HARRIS COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY
AND THE HARRIS CENTER FOR MENTAL HEALTH AND IDD**

WHEREAS, The Harris Center for Mental Health and IDD (The Harris Center) provides community based behavioral health and intellectual and developmental disability services to the residents of Harris County; and

WHEREAS, as part of the services provided by The Harris Center, it operates The Judge Ed Emmett Mental Health Diversion Center (MHDC), the goal of which is to provide an alternative to incarceration for adults with mental health care needs who have committed non-violent, low-level offenses; and

WHEREAS, in September 2018, The Harris Center and Harris County Housing Authority (HCHA) entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) under which the two entities would collaborate and coordinate with each other in providing services to persons assisted by MHDC and in reducing their risk of homelessness; and

WHEREAS, under the September 2018 MOU, among other things, The Harris Center identified and referred persons assisted by MHDC to HCHA for possible participation in the housing choice voucher (HCV) program administered by HCHA and, in turn, HCHA trained The Harris Center staff in the process of applying for and in the operation and requirements of the HCV program; and

WHEREAS, under the September 2018 MOU, HCHA screened all persons referred to it by The Harris Center to determine whether they qualified for participation in the HCV program under HCHA's Administrative Plan and relevant U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development regulations, guidelines, and requirements; and

WHEREAS, under the September 2018 MOU, The Harris Center provided ongoing case management, and supportive services to the persons HCHA accepted into its HCV program; and

WHEREAS, the September 2018 MOU expired, however, the needs of those assisted by MHDC remain, The Harris Center and HCHA desire to continue the collaboration and cooperation each provided the other under the September 2018 MOU, and for that purpose they have negotiated a new MOU, the form and content of which is attached to this resolution; and

WHEREAS, the new MOU is substantially similar to the September 2018 MOU but it more fully addresses confidentiality requirements and expressly provides that it merely outlines how the parties intend to cooperate and work with each other, it does not impose any financial

obligations on either party, and it does not create or contain binding legal rights that permit or allow any party to recover a judgment or award for money damages against the other.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that HCHA's Board of Commissioners authorizes HCHA's Executive Director or Acting Executive Director to execute the Memorandum of Understanding between Harris County Housing Authority and The Harris Center for Mental Health and IDD.

PASSED, by the Board of Commissioners this 21st day of June 2023.

Chair: 

Acting Secretary: 

Attachment