



# APAA

**Association of Persons  
Affected by Addiction**

11/13/2014

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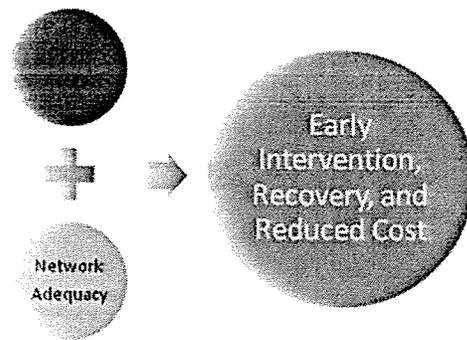
The Association of Persons Affected by Addiction (APAA) is leading a Recovery Community Support Organization that encourages and support personal recovery by offering peer to peer assistance in providing community services that help support recover, reduce relapse, and promote high-level wellness in individuals, their families and the community . APAA has been a NorthStar Peer Provider since 2007. We are grateful to NorthStar for the opportunity to serve the 90% indigent population of NorthStar. The 90% would be out in the cold or in a hot crisis mode if left unserved or underserved. NorthStar has provide our communities with peer assistance from not only peers and consumers with lived experience but family members and community allies of recovery.

**Community Partner** – During a community crisis or disaster, you can count on NorthSTAR to help. **NorthSTAR facilitated the behavioral health response in community disasters, especially in Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Gustave and Ike to insure that the needs of people with mental illness and substance use disorders are met regardless of the challenges**

**The long and the short of it is that NorthSTAR works. It is an efficient, effective and economical system of care for qualified residents of Collin, Dallas, Ellis, Kaufman, Navarro, and Rockwall counties.** Yes, it can be enhanced and it NorthSTAR is always looking for ways to do so. History has proven that to be true when you look at the many innovative and successful programs it has launched over the past 15 years.

### **The NorthSTAR Program: Open Access and Network Adequacy**

*Since 1999, NorthSTAR has successfully demonstrated that it takes more than reducing or eliminating waiting lists to achieve access. Real access (with network adequacy) creates the desired results of early intervention, improved outcomes for members and reduced*





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*cost of care for the State. In September 2014 HHS Office of Inspector General report, **State Standards for Access to Care in Medicaid Managed Care**, the OIG cited concerns with network adequacy, oversight and a need for improvement with Medicaid Managed Care Plans. With a network that includes more than 350 distinct provider contracts across the seven-county region, the NorthSTAR program is a model for that State and has gone beyond open access to full network adequacy. NorthSTAR ensures access to the right services at the right time.*

### **The NorthSTAR Advantage - Expanded and Incentivized Provider Network**

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*"The MCO is not required to credential Providers of Mental Health Rehabilitative Services and Targeted Case Management..."*  
*HHSC Uniform Managed Care Manual*

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*With an expertise in behavioral health, ValueOptions has achieved provider network participation that exceeds standards and provider choice in all other areas of Texas. Unlike the MCO programs, NorthSTAR credentials and contracts with a broad array of provider types in various settings, from individual to group and facility-based agreements. The newly implemented (September 1, 2014) MCO managed "carved-in" services of Mental Health Rehabilitative Services and Targeted Case Management have not resulted in an expanded network such as NorthSTAR. Further, the MCO is not required to expand the provider network beyond the licensed provider types currently enrolled in Medicaid. This means providers such as Peer Providers (PP), Family Partners (FP), Community Services Specialists (CSSP), and Qualified Mental Health Professionals for Community Services (QMHP-CS)<sup>1</sup> are excluded from independently joining the network. The result is a "business as usual" network of providers that looks exactly like the prior Carved-Out LMHA and Community Center model for Mental Health Rehabilitative Services and Targeted Case Management services.*

*The NorthSTAR program structure incentivizes providers to join the network through an open network with competitive rates that ensure:*

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