



Office of Ellis County Judge Todd Little
For Immediate Release

December 1st, 2021; Ellis County Staff Reports
Corey Rogan - Public Information Specialist

“Judge Little Given Distinguished Health Service Award”

Ellis County, TX – In November, Ellis County Judge Todd Little received a Distinguished Health Service Award from the DFW Hospital Council, along with 17 other county judges. Since 1948, the DFW Hospital Council has given the award to North Texas residents who help improve healthcare for their fellow citizens. Following nearly two years of fighting the COVID-19 pandemic, 17 North Texas county judges were honored by the council for their role in protecting public health.

Judge Little was recognized for his role in coordinating staff and funding between Ellis County Emergency Management, the City of Waxahachie, and Baylor Scott & White to organize a Vaccine Hub at the Waxahachie Senior Activity Center in February 2021.

“We wanted to make sure all our citizens had access to the best treatment options available,” said Judge Little. “If we were going to organize a vaccine hub, for God’s sake, we were going to run it well.”

Through the devotion and commitment of hundreds of healthcare workers and volunteers, the Vaccine Hub administered over 80,000 vaccines by the time demand dropped off and the Vaccine Hub closed on June 4th.

And then came Delta.

Although Ellis County’s COVID cases had dramatically declined by the time the Vaccine Hub closed, the numbers began to rise once again by August – sometimes to alarming levels, causing dangerous ICU bed shortages. In response, Judge Little advocated that Commissioners act quickly and harness the potential of therapeutic treatments to intervene early, reduce hospitalizations, and potentially save the lives of those infected with COVID throughout the county.

Again, the court sought a partner – this time with the City of Ferris to start up a Regeneron Infusion Center to treat those infected with COVID. The DFW Hospital Council recognized Judge Little for his instrumental role in advocating that the county government help fund the effort. After a presentation before the Commissioners’ Court by Ferris City Manager Brooks Williams, Commissioners opted to split costs with the city to run the Infusion Center.

As of November 5th, the Infusion Center had treated over 1,000 patients, reducing the risk of hospitalization for each of them by 70-80%. This, in turn, relieved hospitals facing ICU bed shortages, and Ellis County’s COVID numbers are once again on a rapid decline.

Because of the Infusion Center’s extraordinary performance preventing COVID hospitalizations, the Texas Division of Emergency Management has agreed to take over its funding and operations. While the Infusion Center was originally slated to continue operations only through November 15th, state-level funding will allow it to remain open longer.

“To me, this proves that if you do the right thing, and if you do it well, there is always somebody watching who can join you and help. I am optimistic about Ellis County’s position in fighting the pandemic. Together, we will overcome.”

###