



Dear Partner in Prevention:

Over the last several years, the growing problem of older adult falls has become a critical threat to seniors' safety, independence and generates enormous economic and personal costs.

Falls are the leading cause of injury-related hospitalizations and deaths for Texans age 65 and older. In addition to pain and suffering and the high cost of rehabilitation, falls with or without injury threaten senior's quality of life. A growing number of older adults fear falling, and as a result, often self-limit activities and social engagements. Falls are not a normal part of aging!

The North Central Texas Trauma Regional Advisory Council (NCTTRAC) is an organization designed to facilitate the development, implementation, and operation of a comprehensive trauma care system based on accepted standards of care to decrease morbidity and mortality. The Trauma Service Area (TSA-E) for the NCTTRAC is comprised of the following counties: Collin, Cooke, Dallas, Denton, Ellis, Erath, Fannin, Grayson, Hood, Hunt, Johnson, Kaufman, Navarro, Palo Pinto, Parker, Rockwall, Somervell, Tarrant, and Wise. The Public Education/Injury Prevention Committee of NCTTRAC is responsible for promoting injury prevention and public awareness through advocacy and education.

We are committed to finding a productive way to providing a network of services for older adults to help decrease the number of falls and severity of falls in order to maintain independence in their homes. It is important that all segments of the community are represented in efforts to address the issue of older adult falls. We are reaching out to key leaders and organizations in our community who can make a difference in our efforts to promote comprehensive strategies to reduce the risk of falling and improve individual quality of life by reducing injury.

We invite you to attend a meeting on July 27, 2017 at 1:30pm to consider strategies for developing a process for community dialog and problem solving. At this meeting, we will first establish ourselves as a source of information and resources for fall prevention in the north central Texas region by increasing awareness of older adult, caregivers, and service providers of fall prevention resources. Often organizations and agencies working with older adults are unaware of what others are doing for fall prevention. Services can be fragmented and have different approaches to decreasing fall risks. We want to bring as many people together to share resources and coordinate efforts throughout the region.

In the future, we would hope the coalition becomes a comprehensive clearinghouse for fall prevention knowledge and community resources. We want to identify gaps and weaknesses in

meeting the needs of our seniors and construct strategies to close those loops and build communication and networks.

We hope you will accept this invitation. Please let me know if you are interested in this effort and can attend the meeting. Contact me, Chair of the Public Education/Injury Prevention Committee by email courtney.edwards@phhs.org or phone 469-419-0457 or our Chair-Elect, Karen Mynar by email at Karen.Mynar@BSWHealth.org or phone 214-865-2403.

We look forward to working with you on this initiative. Please call with any questions, and we hope to see you on (date).

Sincerely,

Courtney Edwards
Chair, Public Education/Injury Prevention Committee
North Central Texas Trauma Regional Advisory Council