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Family Members and Superintendent Deliver Presentation to County Commissioners

Board member Art Komorowski and family members Karme Raggio and Linda Connell accompanied Superintendent Mark Gerhardstein to deliver a briefing to the county commissioners concerning the proposed acquisition of a new property to expand Board support to individuals with disabilities.

This initiative was the result of an extensive facilities search over the past eighteen months and is one of the Boards major goals in their 2009 Annual Plan. The last facility purchased by the Board for adults in this county, took place more than 25 years ago. The building offers 53,000 sq. feet of usable floor space and was purchased for \$1.943 million. The building is located at 700 Liberty Lane, West Carrollton. Funds have been put aside to purchase and renovate this facility from both Federal and State Governments.

In addition to the Superintendent's comments, Linda Connell expressed her appreciation to the commissioners for their support of a much needed addition to the Board's facilities. She shared the challenges of raising a son with a disability and the problems with lengthy bus rides both to and from Board facilities located in the western and northeastern portions of the county.

The building will be a multipurpose Adult Services Center offering both habilitation and work opportunities for up to 200 individuals. Superintendent Mark Gerhardstein stated, "We are excited about what this will do for people with disabilities. The present facilities and programs are exceeding their capacity. This new building will help to create space for new enrollees, many of whom will be future high school graduates, and save money in transportation costs. This new building will also allow us to consolidate a site we currently lease into the new space."