**MEDIA ALERT**
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**Texas Veterans + Family Alliance Convening**
*Mayor Turner Proclaims March 14, 2017 as Texas Veterans + Family Alliance Day*

**HOUSTON** (March 13, 2017) Houston has the 2nd highest population of veterans in the United States, but has significant gaps in services for veterans and their families. Easter Seals was chosen to lead 12 collaborative partners in addressing some of the most critical mental health and related needs as part of the Texas Veterans + Family Alliance Project of the Texas Health and Human Services Commission with the Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute serving as the program administrator.

Easter Seals Greater Houston will be hosting the first Community Convening at Combined Arms on Tuesday, March 14 from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm. At this event, the collaborative partners and the Harris Center will be sharing their organizations' independent and group goals and will seek ways to connect veterans to existing resources in the community as well as identify gaps in services. The keynote speaker and convening moderator will be Colonel David Sutherland. Colonel Sutherland serves as the Chairman of Easterseals Dixon Center for Military and Veterans Services and is the Chief Strategy Officer, Easterseals Military and Veterans Services, and actively contributes to numerous national veteran and military family committees and boards. The Convening will be attended by collaborative partners, community partners, representatives from the business and government sectors, veterans and supporters, and together the group will be addressing the gaps in the mental health field for veterans and their families and why collaboration matters. This first meeting will bring the network one step closer to creating a comprehensive, consistent, and trusted place where the veteran and family member can turn when issues arise. Lunch and light refreshments will be provided by Give An Hour.

Easter Seals Greater Houston is proud to be serving our veterans and their families in partnership with the American Legion Post 416, Brain Posit, Catholic Charities, Combined Arms, Council on Recovery, Crisis Intervention of Houston, Disability Rights Texas, The Dixon Center, Grace After Fire, the Harris Center, Interfaith Ministries Meals on Wheels, My Service Dog, Xena Project, and U.S. VETS. In addition to serving as the lead for the Community Collaboration, ESGH’s Housing & Financial Counseling, Supported Employment, Respite, BridgingApps Technology and Case Management Programs are providing services to the project’s clients.

**About Easter Seals Greater Houston**
Easter Seals Greater Houston, Inc. is a non-profit corporation established to provide comprehensive services to individuals of all ages with all types of disabilities and their family members. For more information, visit [www.eastersealshouston.org](http://www.eastersealshouston.org)