

## A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF STEPPING UP: A NATIONAL INITIATIVE TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WITH MENTAL ILLNESSES IN JAILS.

WHEREAS, counties routinely provide treatment services to the estimated 2 million people with serious mental illnesses booked into jail each year; and...

WHEREAS, prevalence rates of serious mental illnesses in jails are three to six times higher than for the general population; and...

WHEREAS, almost three-quarters of adults with serious mental illnesses in jails have co-occurring substance use disorders; and...

WHEREAS, adults with mental illnesses tend to stay longer in jail and upon release are at a higher risk of recidivism than people without these disorders; and...

WHEREAS, county jails spend two to three times more on adults with mental illnesses that require interventions compared to those without these treatment needs; and...

WHEREAS, without the appropriate treatment and services, people with mental illnesses continue to cycle through the criminal justice system, often resulting in tragic outcomes for these individuals and their families; and...

WHEREAS, Cass County, Iowa and all counties take pride in their responsibility to protect and enhance the health, welfare and safety of its residents in efficient and cost-effective ways; and...

WHEREAS, Cass County is a member of the Southwest Iowa MHDS Region working cooperatively to create services and provide funding necessary to meet the needs of the mental health and disability community in a nine-county area.

WHEREAS, Cass County will supported the expansion of the Southwest Iowa Mental Health court through its services and staff in the Southwest Iowa MHDS Region, Jails, Sheriff's Offices and Attorney's Offices and partnering through close collaboration with Iowa's 4th Judicial District, Public Defender's Office Probation, Heartland Family Service and The Mental Health and Substance Abuse Network; and...

WHEREAS, Cass County will support collaborative partnerships to enhance and create communication necessary for the establishment of new programs in the county jails and judicial system in a region-wide collective impact effort; and...

WHEREAS, through the Stepping Up initiative, the National Association of Counties, the Council of State Governments Justice Center and the American Psychiatric Foundation are encouraging public, private, and nonprofit partners to reduce the number of people with mental illnesses in jails;

NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED, THAT THE CASS COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, do hereby sign on to the Call to Action to reduce the number of people with mental illnesses in our county jail, commit to sharing lessons learned with other counties in our state and across the country to support a national initiative and encourage all county officials, employees and residents to participate in Stepping Up. We resolve to continue to utilize the comprehensive resources available through Stepping Up by:

Convening or drawing on a diverse team of leaders and decision makers from multiple agencies committed to safely reducing the number of people with mental illnesses in jails.

Collecting and reviewing prevalence numbers and assess individuals' needs to better identify adults entering jails with mental illnesses and their recidivism risk, and use that baseline information to guide decision making.

Examining treatment and service capacity to determine which programs and services are available in the county for people with mental illnesses and co-occurring substance use disorders, and identifying state and local policy and funding barriers to minimize contact with the justice system and provide treatment and support in the community.

Developing a plan with measurable outcomes that draws on the needs and prevalence assessment data and examination of available treatment and service capacity, while considering identified barriers.

Implementing research-based approaches that advance the plan.

Creating a process to track progress using data and information systems, and to report on successes.

Motion by Waters, 2nd by McFadden: to approve RESOLUTION # 2016-001- A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF STEPPING UP: A NATIONAL INITIATIVE TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WITH MENTAL ILLNESSES IN JAILS.


Vote: For passage- Duane McFadden, Charles Rieken, Gaylord Schelling and Frank Waters.

Absent: Mark Wedemeyer

Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution adopted this 20th day of January, 2016.

  
Gaylord Schelling, Chair, Cass County Board of Supervisors

Attest:   
Dale Sunderman, Cass County Auditor