

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

224



FROM: Executive Office

SUBMITTAL DATE:
March 17, 2016

SUBJECT: Stepping Up Initiative to Reduce the Number of People with Mental Illnesses in Jails Resolution

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors:
Support the Stepping Up Initiative to Reduce the Number of People with Mental Illnesses in Jails Resolution

BACKGROUND:

Summary

Stepping Up Initiative :

Recognizing the critical role local and state officials play in supporting change, the National Association of Counties (NACo), the Council of State Governments (CSG) Justice Center, the American Psychiatric Foundation (APF), and with support from the U.S. Justice Department's Bureau of Justice Assistance have come together to lead a national initiative to help advance counties' efforts to reduce the number of adults with mental and co-occurring substance use disorders in jails.

Departmental Concurrence



Steve Steinberg, Director
RUHS-Behavioral Health



Brian Nestande
Deputy County Executive Officer

FINANCIAL DATA	Current Fiscal Year:	Next Fiscal Year:	Total Cost:	Ongoing Cost:	POLICY/CONSENT (per Exec. Office)
COST	\$	\$	\$	\$	Consent <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
NET COUNTY COST	\$	\$	\$	\$	

SOURCE OF FUNDS:	Budget Adjustment:
	For Fiscal Year:

C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION:

APPROVE

BY: 

George A. Johnson

County Executive Office Signature

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

- A-30
- 4/5 Vote
- Positions Added
- Change Order

Prev. Agn. Ref.: _____ **District:** All **Agenda Number:** _____

BACKGROUND:
Summary (continued)

Support of this Initiative and Resolution emphasizes the importance of this matter to Riverside County. As a result of the passage of AB 109 and Proposition 47, social and fiscal policies are quite different and will continue to evolve in Riverside County. Therefore it is important to look at the alternatives that our sister counties both within the state and nationwide have chosen in their pursuit of justice and peace. 252 counties nationwide have passed this resolution, including 17 in California.

The passage of this resolution signals a commitment from the Board of Supervisors to continue working with law enforcement, the courts, and treatment providers, in providing for the best possible treatment for mental illness and substance abuse and thereby creating a healthy and safe community.

Stepping Up Initiative
to Reduce the Number of People with Mental Illnesses in Jails Resolution

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, Riverside County 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, through *Stepping Up*, the National Association of Counties, the Council of State Governments Justice Center and the American Psychiatric Association 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, 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 my 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 utilize the comprehensive resources available through *Stepping Up* to:

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- Convene or draw 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.
- Collect and review 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 at the system, program, and case levels.
- Examine 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 identify state and local policy and funding barriers to minimizing contact with the justice system and providing treatment and supports in the community.
- Develop a plan with measurable outcomes that draws on the jail assessment and prevalence data and the examination of available treatment and service capacity, while considering identified barriers.
- Implement research-based approaches that advance the plan.
- Create a process to track progress using data and information systems, and to report on successes.

Impact on Residents and Businesses

The action presented should not affect residents or businesses within Riverside County.

SUPPLEMENTAL:

Additional Fiscal Information

N/A

Contract History and Price Reasonableness

N/A