

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF CLACKAMAS COUNTY, STATE OF OREGON**

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



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WHEREAS, the national Stepping Up Initiative, 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 county jails through a national Call to Action; and

WHEREAS, the national Stepping Up Initiative reports prevalence rates of serious mental illnesses in jails are three to six times higher than for the general public and that county jails spend two to three times more on adults with mental illnesses needing interventions compared to those without these treatment needs; and

WHEREAS, the national Stepping Up Initiative reports almost three-quarters of adults with serious mental illnesses in jails have co-occurring substance use disorders and that 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, Clackamas County recognizes that without 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; to avoid this end, Clackamas County through longstanding, cooperative efforts of the Sheriff's Office, Community Corrections and Health, Housing and Human Services departments, has developed a Transition Center to provide treatment and support services to help prevent individuals with Mental Illness from being booked into the county jail.

NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED, THAT WE, the Board of Commissioners for Clackamas County, Oregon, do hereby support the national Call to Action to reduce the number of people with mental illnesses in the Clackamas County Jail, commit to sharing lessons learned with other Oregon counties and across the country to support the national initiative and encourage all county officials, employees, and residents to participate in the national Stepping Up Initiative.

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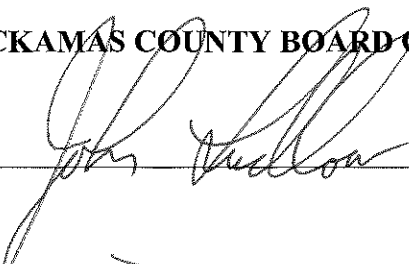
We further resolve in support of the national Call to Action and with resources available through Stepping Up, to initiate the following objectives related to people with mental illnesses in the County jail:

- 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; and
- Create a process to track progress using data and information systems, and to report on successes.

Dated this 7th day of January 2016

CLACKAMAS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Chair



Recording Secretary

