

STEPPING UP INITIATIVE

RESOLUTION 2017-04

WHEREAS, Counties routinely provide treatment services to the estimated 2 million people with 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 jail 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 disorders; 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 those individual and their families; and

WHEREAS, Sioux County takes pride in its responsibility to protect and enhance the health, welfare and safety of its residents in an efficient and cost-effective manner; and

WHEREAS, Sioux County/Sioux Rivers Regional MHDS has developed the Stabilization and Assessment Center, which helps people stay out of jail by offering crisis services ; and

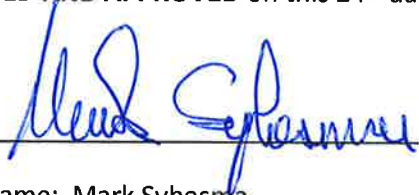
WHEREAS, through *Stepping Up*, the National Association of Counties, the Council of State Governments Justice Center and the American Psychiatric Association Foundation are encouraging public, private and non-profit partners to reduce the number of people with mental illness in jails in jails;

NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED, THAT SIOUX COUNTY, does hereby sign onto the Call to Action to reduce the numbers of people with mental illnesses in our county/regional jails, commit to sharing lessons learned with other counties/regions in Iowa and across the country to support a national initiative and encourage all regional officials, employees and residents to participate in *Stepping Up*. We resolve to utilize the comprehensive resources available through *Stepping Up* to:

- Convene or draw on a diverse team of leaders and decision makers from multiple agencies committed to safety 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 of 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 Region for people with mental illnesses and co-occurring substance use disorders, and identify state and local policy and finding barriers to minimizing contact with the justice system and providing treatment and supports in the community.
- Develop a plan with measureable 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.

PASSED AND APPROVED on this 24th day of January, 2017.

By: 

Name: Mark Sybesma
Title: Board of Supervisors, Chairman

By: 

Name: John Degen
Title: Vice Chair

By: 

Name: Dennis Wright
Title: Supervisor

By: 

Name: Al Bloemendaal
Title: Supervisor

By: 

Name: Arlyn Kleinwolterink
Title: Supervisor

ATTEST:

By: 

Name: Ryan Dokter
Title: Sioux County Auditor