

EXHIBIT 1

DELEGATION REQUEST..... BROWARD COUNTY COMMISSION

Any citizen shall be entitled to be placed on the official agenda of a regular meeting of the Commission and be heard concerning any matter within the scope of the Commission's jurisdiction through a Delegation Request. To make a Delegation Request, please submit a letter or fill out this form and return to **County Administration, Room 409, Governmental Center, 115 S. Andrews Avenue, Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33301** or fax it back to **(954) 357-7360**. Each delegation will be notified of the scheduled appearance date and time. **Please indicate in your Request the manner in which you wish to receive notification.** Back-up materials, if any, must be included with the original Delegation Request in order to allow the Board an opportunity to review the material before the discussion.

Appearance before the Board of County Commissioners is limited to **THREE** minutes.

Hard copies of the agenda will be available in the meeting room, on the day of the meeting, and electronic copies are available in advance at: <http://www.broward.org/commission/welcome.htm>.

<b>NAME OF DELEGATION OR GROUP:</b> NAMI Broward County / Stepping Up Initiative	<b>DATE OF REQUEST:</b> 9/28/20
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<b>NAME OF PERSON REPRESENTING GROUP:</b> Sandra Cumper (NAMI Broward) and Judge Ari Abraham Porth, 17th Judicial Circuit Mental Health/Drug Court	<b>ADDRESS:</b> 4161 NW 5 St., Plantation, FL 33317	<b>PHONE NUMBER:</b> 954-232-6728 <b>EMAIL ADDRESS:</b> sandra@namibroward.org
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Please indicate (X) how you wish to be contacted: Mailing Address  Email

<b>SUBJECT YOU WISH TO DISCUSS:</b> Re-starting the Stepping Up Initiative in Broward County
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**Use this space for any explanatory comments you feel necessary.**

As our County leaders, we ask for your support to restart the Stepping Up Initiative to reduce the number of people with mental illnesses and/or substance use disorders in our jails and the amount of time they stay there. Broward leaders signed a resolution in 2015 to pursue this Initiative, which saves money and lives. (See letter)

**HAVE YOU EVER CONTACTED ANYONE IN COUNTY GOVERNMENT IN REGARD TO THIS SUBJECT?**

YES  NO

IF SO, WHO?

WHEN?

WHAT WAS THE OUTCOME?

**MATERIALS FOR COMMISSION'S REVIEW?**

YES  NO

<b>TO BE COMPLETED BY ADMIN.OFFICE ONLY</b>	<b>DATE DELEGATION SCHEDULED:</b>	<b>DELEGATION NOTIFIED? INITIALS:</b>
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9/28/20

Dear Mayor Holness and Broward County Commissioners,

As our county leaders, we ask for your public support to restart the Stepping Up Initiative, a national evidence-based program to reduce the number of people with mental illnesses in our jails and the amount of time they stay there. The Stepping Up Initiative is sponsored by the Council of State Governments Justice Center, the National Association of Counties, and the American Psychiatric Association. It is also supported by the National Alliance on Mental Illness. Broward County signed a resolution in 2015 to begin this initiative; a workshop was held, but the project did not maintain momentum.

The number of people with mental illness in U.S. jails has reached crisis levels. In counties across the nation, jails now have more people with mental illnesses than in their psychiatric hospitals. Approximately 2 million times each year in the U.S., people who have serious mental illnesses are admitted to jails. Once incarcerated, these individuals stay longer in jail and are at a higher risk of recidivism than those without mental illnesses.

The human toll of this problem—and its cost to taxpayers—is staggering. Jails spend two to three times more on adults with mental illnesses than on those without, yet often *do not see improvements* to public safety or these individuals' health. Without change, large numbers of people with mental illnesses will continue to cycle through the criminal justice system, resulting in tragic outcomes for them and their families, missed opportunities for connections to treatment, inefficient use of funding, and a failure to improve public safety.

The Stepping Up Initiative is based on *collaboration* between Criminal Justice and Behavioral Health leaders, and County government. The NAMI Broward Advocacy Group has been meeting with Judge Ari Abraham Porth to discuss pre- and post-jail diversion practices. Together, we met with Judge Steve Leifman and Cindy Schwartz from the successful Criminal Mental Health Project Jail Diversion Programs in Miami-Dade County. We've also met with representatives from BBHC, BSO, WellPath, Broward Regional Health Planning Council, the State Attorney and Public Defender Offices, Florida DCF, and other vested parties. **Judge Porth and I ask your permission to speak at the 10/6/20 Broward County Commission meeting to tell you more about Stepping Up.** To learn more, visit <https://stepuptogether.org/>

On a different, but related and important topic, **thank you for your support** of NAMI Broward's request to the Governor and Cabinet to extend the lease and subleases on state land in the Howard C. Forman Health Park, to provide affordable housing for individuals and families with mental illness. As NAMI Advocacy Group members whose adult children live with severe and persistent mental conditions, we are keenly aware of the importance of permanent, supportive housing (PSH) to foster recovery and avoid expensive crisis-driven care. We are **extremely pleased** to report that on Tuesday, 9/22/20, the Cabinet approved the lease extensions. This will allow BBHC and Carrfour Supportive Housing, with the support of NAMI Broward and the City of Pembroke Pines, to pursue an RFA for financing in 2021.

With Much Appreciation,

Gayle Giese (954-258-9704; giesegayle@gmail.com)  
NAMI Advocacy Group, Broward County; NAMI Florida Board Member

cc: Judge Ari Abraham Porth, Mental Health and Drug Court, 17<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit Court, Criminal Division, FL  
Mandy Wells, Acting Director, Human Services, Broward County  
Sandra Cumper, Executive Director, NAMI Broward County  
Silvia Quintana, CEO, Broward Behavioral Health Coalition  
William King, Housing & SOAR Entitlements Coordinator, BBHC  
Donna Linn and Richard Horner, NAMI Advocacy Group, Broward County

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