

RESOLUTION NO. 2015-269

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA, PERTAINING TO THE STEPPING UP INITIATIVE TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WITH MENTAL ILLNESSES IN JAIL; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, an estimated 2 million people with serious mental illnesses are booked into jails 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 or 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, Broward County takes pride in its responsibility to protect and enhance the health, wealth, welfare, and safety of its residents in efficient and cost-effective ways; and

WHEREAS, the Stepping Up Initiative urges counties to:

- 1 • convene to draw on a diverse team of leaders and decision-makers from multiple
2 agencies committed to safely reducing the number of people with mental
3 illnesses in jails;
- 4 • collect and review prevalence numbers and assess individuals' needs to better
5 identify adults entering jails with mental illnesses and their recidivism risk, and
6 use that baseline information to guide decision making at the system, program,
7 and case levels;
- 8 • examine treatment and service capacity to determine which programs and
9 services are available in the county for people with mental illnesses and co-
10 occurring substance use disorders, and identify state and local policy and funding
11 barriers to minimizing contact with the justice system and providing treatment
12 and supports in the community;
- 13 • develop a plan with measurable outcomes that draws on the jail assessment and
14 prevalence data and the examination of available treatment and service capacity,
15 while considering identified barriers;
- 16 • implement evidence-based practices that advance the plan; and
- 17 • create a process to track progress using data and information systems, and to
18 report on successes; and

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

23 WHEREAS, Broward County is committed to helping those mental illness and
24 substance abuse problems through programs like those of the Broward Addiction

1 Recovery Center, which provides a wide array of substance abuse detoxification and
2 treatment services to Broward County adults, NOW, THEREFORE,

3 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
4 BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA:

5 Section 1. The aforementioned "Whereas" clauses are hereby ratified and
6 incorporated into this Resolution.

7 Section 2. The Broward County Board of County Commissioners joins the Call
8 to Action to reduce the number of people with mental illnesses in our county jail, and
9 encourages county officials, employees, and residents to participate in Stepping Up.

10 Section 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.

11 This Resolution shall become effective upon adoption.

12

13 ADOPTED this 19th day of May, 2015. Item # 48

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15 Approved as to form and legal sufficiency:
16 Joni Armstrong Coffey, County Attorney

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17 By /s/Scott Andron 05/18/15
18 Scott Andron (date)
19 Assistant County Attorney

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SA/dmv
05/18/15
Resolution-Stepping Up Initiative
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