



STAFF REPORT

Report To: Board of Supervisors

Meeting Date: May 19, 2016

Staff Contact: Bob Crowell, bcrowell@carson.org or Ken Furlong, kfurlong@carson.org

Agenda Title: For Possible Action: To adopt a resolution to 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 our state and across the country, support a national initiative and encourage all county officials, employees and residents to participate in the initiative.

Staff Summary: 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, and the American Psychiatric Foundation (APF) are leading an unprecedented national initiative to help advance counties' efforts to reduce the number of adults with mental illnesses and co-occurring substance use disorders in jails.

Agenda Action: Resolution

Time Requested: 10 mins

Proposed Motion

I move to adopt Resolution No. _____, a resolution to 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 our state and across the country, support a national initiative and encourage all county officials, employees and residents to participate in the initiative.

Board's Strategic Goal

Safety

Previous Action

N/A

Background/Issues & Analysis

To build on the foundation of innovative and evidence-based practices already being implemented across the country, and to bring these efforts to scale, NACo, the CSG Justice Center, and APF are working with partner organizations with expertise in the complex issues addressed by the initiative, including those representing sheriffs, jail administrators, judges, community corrections professionals and treatment providers, consumers, advocates, mental health and drug abuse service directors, and other stakeholders.

The initiative has three key components:

1. A Call to Action
2. Technical Assistance
3. A National Summit

The initiative will align state and local efforts and include activities that state officials and other stakeholders can engage in to complement counties' work. The summit is supported by APF, while other aspects of the initiative are supported by the U.S. Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Assistance.

Applicable Statute, Code, Policy, Rule or Regulation

Financial Information

Is there a fiscal impact? Yes No

If yes, account name/number:

Is it currently budgeted? Yes No

Explanation of Fiscal Impact:

Alternatives

Board Action Taken:

Motion: _____

1) _____

2) _____

Aye/Nay

(Vote Recorded By)

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION TO 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 OUR STATE AND ACROSS THE COUNTRY, SUPPORT A NATIONAL INITIATIVE AND ENCOURAGE ALL COUNTY OFFICIALS, EMPLOYEES AND RESIDENTS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE INITIATIVE.

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, Carson City 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, Carson City has implemented the Forensic Assessment Services Triage Team which helps people stay out of jail by offering mental health and substance use disorder treatment; 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 I Robert Crowell, Mayor of Carson City, on behalf of the Board of Supervisors, 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 our state and across the country, support a national initiative and encourage all county officials, employees and residents to participate in the initiative. 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 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.

ADOPTED this _____ day of _____, 2016.

AYES: Supervisors _____

NAYES: Supervisors _____

ABSENT: Supervisors _____

 Robert L. Crowell, Mayor

ATTEST:

 Susan Merriwether, Clerk/Recorder