

RESOLUTION

NO: 2020-03-074

LIVINGSTON COUNTY

DATE: March 18, 2020

Resolution to Support “Stepping Up Initiative to Reduce the Number of People with Mental Illness in Jails” – Board of Commissioners

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 spent 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, Livingston County and all counties take pride their responsibility to protect and enhance the health, welfare and safety of its residents in efficient and cost-effective ways; 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.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Livingston County Board of Commissioners 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 my state and across the country to support a national initiative and encourage all county 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 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.
- Implement research-based approaches that advance the plan.
- Create a process to track progress using data and information systems, and to report on successes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to all Michigan counties, the National Association of Counties, the Michigan Association of Counties, and members of our State and Federal leadership.

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MOVED: G. Childs
SECONDED: D. Dolan
CARRIED: Roll Call Vote: Yes (7): G. Childs, C. Griffith W. Green, W. Nakagiri, D. Helzerman, R. Bezotte, and D. Dolan; No (0): None; Absent (1): K. Lawrence

STATE OF MICHIGAN)
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 COUNTY OF LIVINGSTON)

I, **ELIZABETH HUNDLEY**, the duly qualified and acting Clerk of the County of Livingston, Michigan do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted by the County Board of Commissioners at a regular meeting on the 18th day of March 2020, the original of which is on file in my office.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereto affixed by official signature on this 23rd day of April 2020, A.D.



Elizabeth Hundley

ELIZABETH HUNDLEY, LIVINGSTON COUNTY CLERK