

A RESOLUTION

No. _____

A RESOLUTION TO ENCOURAGE ALL COUNTIES WITHIN THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA AND ACROSS THE COUNTRY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE STEPPING UP INITIATIVE AIMED AT REDUCING THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WITH MENTAL ILLNESSES IN JAILS ACROSS THE COUNTRY.

WHEREAS, counties routinely provide treatment services to the estimated two million (2,000,000) 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 public; 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, the County of Greenville 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, the County of Greenville offers mental health and psychological services to inmates in need of treatment; and

WHEREAS, the Detention Center has an in-house staff of qualified mental health professionals whereby inmates identified as having a mental illness or psychological need are able to receive counseling and medications which improve the daily living skills and accountability for recovery for those inmates so identified; 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, BE IT RESOLVED that Greenville County Council does hereby sign on to the Call to Action to reduce the number of people with mental illnesses in the county

jail, commits to sharing lessons learned with other counties in South Carolina and across the country to support a national initiative and encourage all county officials, employees, and residents to participate in Stepping Up.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Greenville County Council will 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 support 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; and
- Create a process to track progress using data and information systems, and to report on successes.

ADOPTED IN REGULAR MEETING THIS ___ DAY OF _____, 2016.

GREENVILLE COUNTY COUNCIL

Bob Taylor, Chairman
Greenville County Council

ATTEST:

Theresa B. Kizer
Clerk to Council

Joseph M. Kernell
County Administrator