

**MINUTES
COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND HUMAN SERVICES**

August 9, 2016

5:00 P.M.

CONFERENCE ROOM D - COUNTY SQUARE

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, notice of the meeting date, time, place and agenda was posted on the bulletin board at the entrance of the Council Office and mailed to the newspapers, radio stations and television stations.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chairman Liz Seman
Vice Chairman Joe Baldwin (entered at 5:17)
Councilor Lynn Ballard
Councilor Willis Meadows

COMMITTEE MEMBER(S) ABSENT:

Councilor Lottie Gibson

STAFF PRESENT:

Jeffrey D. Wile, Assistant County Attorney
John Vandermosten, Interim Assistant County Administrator
Marie Livingston, Mental Health Manager
Kanisha Miller, LPC
Laura Miller, LPC
Lori Phillips, LPC
Lisa McCombs, Administrative Support Specialist
Debbie Templeton, Administrative Assistant
Helen E. Wood, Clerk to Public Safety Committee

OTHERS PRESENT:

Larry Kendall, NAMI Greenville
Ken Dority, NAMI Greenville
Paton Blough, State NAMI Rehinge

CALL TO ORDER:

Liz Seman
Chairman

INVOCATION:

Willis Meadows
Councilor

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

ACTION: Councilor Lynn Ballard moved to approve the minutes of the Committee on Public Safety and Human Services' meeting of April 12, 2016. Motion carried unanimously by all Council members present.

STEPPING UP INITIATIVE

The Stepping Up Initiative is a nationwide effort to reduce the number of people with mental illness in jails across the country. There are 293 counties across the nation that have joined the initiative and it is supported by various agencies and organizations. The resolution presented to the committee includes many areas that will need to be addressed as they are presented. The resolution is a manner in which to join the Stepping Up Initiative and officially begin the effort to reduce the mental illness population within the local jails. It will also facilitate collaborations and local coordination of services to assist those with mental illness and lessen the issues within the community.

Chairman Seman recognized the efforts by the community and the jail currently to aide those with mental illness. She stated the committee is in favor of collaborations to further these efforts and understands the need to make the effort more formal. Chairman Seman invited committee members to ask questions pertaining to the resolution.

Councilman Ballard questioned who would be the overseer of the Stepping Up Initiative. NAMI, National Alliance on Mental Illness, is one of many collaborative partners supporting the initiative. NAMI can initially take the lead to further the collaborative effort. However, Greenville County Council would be the managing force.

Councilman Meadows stated he felt the resolution is reactive not proactive. He would like to see more preventive measures in place. The resolution broadly outlines a plan of action for the Stepping Up Initiative. It includes Crisis Intervention Training, First Responder Training and highlights agencies and resources willing to assist. Passing the resolution demonstrates support for the initiative and uses the influence of County Council to gain community support.

Vice Chairman Baldwin inquired to the types of crimes appropriate for Mental Health Court. Greenville County's Mental Health court is one of the first programs in the state and began about 10 years ago with a 3 year grant. When the grant ended, the Mental Health Court was continued without funding. This court serves 12-15 people/year and is only for non-violent offenses.

ACTION: Councilor Willis Meadows moved to forward the Stepping Up Initiative resolution to full Council for approval. Motion carried unanimously by all Council members present.

ADJOURNMENT

ACTION: Councilor Willis Meadows moved to adjourn the meeting of the Committee on Public Safety and Human Services. Without objection, the meeting adjourned at 5:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Templeton, Administrative Assistant