

THE PETTIS COUNTY COMMISSION  
RESOLUTION FOR STEPPING UP 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, the County of Pettis takes 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 Pettis has developed a Mental Health Coalition to assist people in staying out of jail by offering mental health and substance use disorder treatment; and

WHEREAS, where the Stepping Up initiative is a national program designed to assist counties in reducing the number of people with mental illness in jails.

WHEREAS, through the Stepping Up initiative, the National Association of Counties, The Council of State Governments Justice Center and the American Psychiatric 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, David Dick, Presiding Commissioner of Pettis County, 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 my state and across the county
- to support the national Stepping Up initiative
- and encourage all Pettis County Officials, employees and residents to participate in Stepping Up program.

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 identify adults entering jails with mental illnesses and their recidivism risk, and use that baseline information to guide the decision-making;
- Examine treatment and service capacity to determine which programs and services are available in Pettis County for people with mental illnesses and co-occurring substance use disorders;
- Identify state and local policy and funding barriers to minimizing contact with the justice system by providing treatment and support system in the community;
- Develop a plan with measurable outcomes that draws on the "Needs and Prevalence Assessment" data including an 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 reporting.

Passed and approved in the 9<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2015.

  
David Dick, Presiding Commissioner

  
Jim Marcum, Western Commissioner

  
Brent Hampy, Eastern Commissioner