

Introduced by:

Hon. John A. Murphy, Sponsor
Hon. Jay Hood, Jr., Co-Sponsor
Hon. Toney L. Earl, Co-Sponsor
Hon. Michael M. Grant, Co-Sponsor
Hon. Douglas J. Jobson, Co-Sponsor
Hon. Nancy Low-Hogan, Co-Sponsor
Hon. Aney Paul, Co-Sponsor
Hon. Philip Soskin, Co-Sponsor
Hon. Richard C. Diaz, Co-Sponsor
Hon. Alden H. Wolfe, Co-Sponsor

Referral No. 2973
June 16, 2015

**RESOLUTION NO. 295 OF 2015
IN SUPPORT OF "STEPPING UP: A NATIONAL INITIATIVE TO REDUCE
THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WITH MENTAL ILLNESS AND
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES IN JAILS," BROUGHT BY THE
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES, THE COUNCIL OF STATE
GOVERNMENTS JUSTICE CENTER AND THE AMERICAN PSYCHIATRIC
FOUNDATION, TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WITH MENTAL
ILLNESS AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES IN THE ROCKLAND
COUNTY JAIL**

HOOD, JR./THE ENTIRE LEGISLATURE: UNAN.

WHEREAS, prevalence rates of serious mental illness in jails are three to six times higher than for the general population, developmental disabilities are two to three times higher than for the general population, and adults with mental illness tend to stay longer in jail and upon release are at a higher risk of recidivism than people without these disorders; and

WHEREAS, almost three-quarters of adults with serious mental illness in jails have co-occurring substance use disorders, and county jails on average spend two to three times more on adults with mental illness who require interventions compared to those without these treatment needs; and

WHEREAS, without the appropriate treatment and services, people with mental illness and developmental disabilities continue to cycle through the criminal justice system, often resulting in tragic outcomes for these individuals and their families; and

WHEREAS, Rockland County is obliged to protect and enhance the health, welfare and safety of its residents in efficient and cost-effective ways; and

WHEREAS, through the initiative known as "Stepping Up," 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 illness in jails; and

WHEREAS, the "Stepping Up" initiative provides counties with guidance, support, and direction for developing an action plan that makes effective use of budgets to facilitate access to treatment and promote appropriate alternatives to jail; and

WHEREAS, according to the "Stepping Up" initiative, certain County actions may lead to a reduction in the number of people with mental illness and developmental disabilities in our County jail, including the collection of data to determine the extent of the problem within our County jail, the development of a plan with a team of diverse stakeholders that draws on sound research, and the design of an approach to track progress; and

WHEREAS, in order to begin reducing the number of people with mental illness and/or developmental disabilities in jail, the County's agencies should:

- a) establish a diverse team of leaders and decision makers from multiple agencies, such as the Department of Mental Health and the Sheriff's Division, that are committed to safely reducing the number of people with mental illness and/or developmental disabilities in jails;
 - b) collect and review mental illness and developmental disabilities prevalence numbers and assess individuals' needs, so as to better identify adults entering jails with mental illness and/or developmental disabilities and assess their recidivism risk, and use that baseline information to guide decision making at the system, program and case levels;
 - c) examine treatment and service capacity to determine which programs and services are available in the County for people with mental illness and developmental disabilities 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;
 - d) develop a plan with measurable outcomes that draws on jail assessment and prevalence data and the examination of available treatment and service capacity, while considering identified barriers; and
 - e) create a process to track progress using data and information systems, and to report on successes;
- ; and

WHEREAS, the Public Safety Committee of the Legislature of Rockland County has met, considered and unanimously approved this resolution; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Legislature of Rockland County supports the "Stepping Up" initiative presented by the National Association of Counties, the Council of State Governments Justice Center and the American Psychiatric Foundation to reduce the number of people with mental illness and/or developmental disabilities in the Rockland County Jail; and be it further

RESOLVED, that in order to reduce the number of people with mental illness and/or developmental disabilities in jail, the Rockland County Legislature calls on the County's agencies to:

- a) establish a diverse team of leaders and decision makers from multiple agencies, such as the Department of Mental Health and the Sheriff's Division, that are committed to safely reducing the number of people with mental illness and/or developmental disabilities in jails;
 - b) collect and review mental illness and developmental disabilities prevalence numbers and assess individuals' needs, so as to better identify adults entering jails with mental illness and/or developmental disabilities and assess their recidivism risk, and use that baseline information to guide decision making at the system, program and case levels;
 - c) examine treatment and service capacity to determine which programs and services are available in the County for people with mental illness and/or developmental disabilities 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;
 - d) develop a plan with measurable outcomes that draws on jail assessment and prevalence data and the examination of available treatment and service capacity, while considering identified barriers; and
 - e) create a process to track progress using data and information systems, and to report on successes;
- ; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Clerk to the Legislature be and he is hereby authorized and directed to send a copy of this Resolution to the Hon. Andrew Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York; Hon. David Carlucci and Hon. William J. Larkin, Jr., New York State Senators; Hon. Ellen C. Jaffee, Hon. Kenneth P. Zebrowski, Hon. Karl A. Brabenec, Hon. James Skoufis, Members of the New York State Assembly; the President Pro Tem of the New York State Senate; the Speaker of the New York State Assembly; the Majority and Minority Leaders of the New York State Senate and Assembly; Matthew D. Chase, Executive Director, National Association of Counties; David Adkins, Executive Director, Council of State Governments; Paul Burke, Executive Director, American Psychiatric Foundation; and to such other persons as the Clerk, in his discretion, may deem proper in order to effectuate the purpose of this Resolution.

JB/ELY/cs
LG 2015-65
5/21/15
6/5/15; 6/10/15; 6/17/15

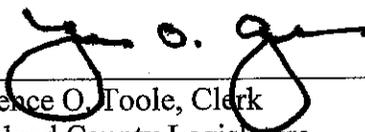
STATE OF NEW YORK)
) ss.:
COUNTY OF ROCKLAND)

I, the undersigned, Clerk to the Legislature of the County of Rockland DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the attached is an original resolution of such Legislature, duly adopted on the 16th day of June 2015 by a majority of the members elected to the Legislature while such Legislature was in regular session with a duly constituted quorum of members present and voting.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that at the time said resolution was adopted said Legislature was comprised of seventeen members.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the corporate seal of said Legislature this 17th day of June 2015.

Date sent to the County Executive:
June 17, 2015



Laurence O. Toole, Clerk
Rockland County Legislature

Certified or Approved
Edwin J. Day, County Executive
County of Rockland

(Date)

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