

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF LANCASTER COUNTY, NEBRASKA**

**IN THE MATTER OF SUPPORTING)
THE STEPPING UP INITIATIVE TO)
REDUCE THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE)
WITH MENTAL ILLNESSES IN JAIL)**

RESOLUTION NO. R-15-0031

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 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, Lancaster County Community Correction's Mental Health Jail Diversion Program works with individuals pre-booking to divert those with a serious mental health or co-occurring substance abuse from incarceration; and

WHEREAS, Lancaster County Community Corrections screens individuals in custody with serious mental health symptoms for jail diversion and pretrial release for mental health services; and

WHEREAS, Lancaster County Corrections has Licensed Mental Health Practitioners on site and screens and identifies anyone with mental health symptoms at booking; and

WHEREAS, through the *Stepping Up Initiative to Reduce the Number of People with Mental Illnesses in Jails* 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 find strategies and resources to reduce the number of people with mental illnesses in jails.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Lancaster County Board of Commissioners, that this Board supports the “*Stepping Up Initiative to Reduce the Number of People with Mental Illnesses in Jails*” in order to effectively reduce the number of people with mental illnesses in Lancaster County Corrections and commits to sharing lessons learned with other counties in Nebraska and across the country

DATED this 14th day of July, 2015.

**BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
LANCASTER COUNTY, NEBRASKA**

APPROVED AS TO FORM THIS
14th day of July 2015.


JOE KELLY

Lancaster County Attorney





