

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON**

RESOLUTION NO. 2015-077

Acknowledging Multnomah County's participation in the National Association of Counties' *Stepping Up Initiative*.

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Finds:

- a. Jails across the nation serve an estimated 2 million people with serious mental illness each year.
- b. Nationally, prevalence rates of serious mental illnesses in jails are three to six times higher than the general public and counties spend two to three times more on adults with mental illnesses compared to those without these treatment needs.
- c. Adults with mental illnesses tend to stay longer in jail and, upon release, are at a higher risk of recidivism.
- d. With appropriate support, people can and do recover from mental illness.
- e. Without the appropriate treatment and services, people with mental illnesses continue to cycle through the criminal justice system.
- f. Multnomah County supports the engagement of the peer community in the planning and recovery process.
- g. Multnomah County health care and mental health professionals provide an array of services to individuals with mental illness involved in the criminal justice system. They include assessments, screenings, stabilization care, treatment for co-occurring disorders, crisis care, and referrals to community based services.
- h. There is significant work underway to enhance these services in Multnomah County. Efforts include: the Crisis Assessment and Treatment Center Jail Diversion Program; Participation in the MacArthur Foundations Safety and Justice Challenge; the LPSCC Mental Health Jail Diversion Feasibility Assessment; partnering with regional hospitals in the creation of a Psychiatric Emergency Hospital; and improvements in treatment via a grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.
- i. Multnomah County's strives to ensure every individual receives the right care, at the right time, and at the right place.

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Resolves:

1. Multnomah County joins with other counties across the country in the Stepping Up Initiative, a Call to Action to reduce the number of people with mental illnesses in our jail, and commits to sharing lessons with other counties.
2. The County will continue its work across departments and jurisdictions, with stakeholders, community partners, and clients to address this serious issue.

ADOPTED this 25th day of June, 2015.



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

Deborah Kafoury

Deborah Kafoury, Chair

REVIEWED:

JENNY M. MADKOUR, COUNTY ATTORNEY
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

Jenny M. Madkour

By _____
Jenny M. Madkour, County Attorney

SUBMITTED BY: Commissioner Judy Shiprack, District 3