



RESOLUTION NO.
OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF EL DORADO

“Stepping Up” Initiative
Stepping Up to Reduce the Number of Adults with Mental Illness in Jails

WHEREAS, nationwide, counties routinely provide treatment services to the estimated two million people with serious mental illnesses booked into jails nationwide each year; and

WHEREAS, rates of serious mental illness are three to six times higher for jail inmates than for the general public; and

WHEREAS, almost three-quarters of adults with serious mental illnesses in jails have co-occurring substance use disorders; and

WHEREAS, inmates with mental illnesses tend to stay longer in jail, and upon release, have a higher risk of recidivism than people without mental illness; and

WHEREAS, county jails spend two to three times more on inmates with mental illnesses that require intervention compared to inmates 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, “Stepping Up,” is a nationwide initiative to reduce the number of inmates with mental illnesses in jails, and is supported by the National Association of Counties, the Council of State Governments Justice Center, and the American Psychiatric Association Foundation; and

WHEREAS, the County of El Dorado takes seriously its responsibility to protect and enhance the health, welfare, and safety of all its residents, including inmates, in efficient and cost-effective ways; and

WHEREAS, the Health and Human Services Agency, the Probation Department, and the Sheriff's Office have joined together to create the El Dorado Community Corrections Center with the mission of serving adult offenders by delivering an evidence-based approach to treatment in a collaborative setting to reduce offender risk factors and recidivism, and increase community safety; and

WHEREAS, the Health and Human Services Agency, the Probation Department and the Sheriff's Office have committed to ongoing collaboration to reduce recidivism of individuals with mental illness and support the national "Stepping Up" initiative; and

WHEREAS, the Health and Human Services Agency, the Probation Department, and the Sheriff's Office requests the support of Board of Supervisors of El Dorado County for the national "Stepping Up" initiative; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Supervisors of the County of El Dorado does hereby authorize the Director of Health and Human Services, the Chief Probation Officer, and the Sheriff to formally support the "Stepping Up" initiative. Through our support, we resolve to utilize the comprehensive resources available through the "Stepping Up" initiative to:

1. Convene 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.
2. Collect and review available data about the prevalence of mental illness and the recidivism of the mentally ill, to better identify which adults entering the county jail have mental illnesses and their recidivism risk, and use that information to guide decision making at the system, program, and case levels.
3. Examine treatment and service capacity to determine which programs and services are available in the county for people with mental illnesses and co-occurring substance use disorders.
4. Identify barriers to accessing treatment and support in the community.
5. Develop a plan with measurable outcomes that draws on the jail assessment and prevalence data and the examination of available treatment and service capacity, while considering identified barriers.
6. Implement research-based approaches that advance the Stepping Up Initiative.
7. Create a process to track progress using data and information systems, and to report the outcomes.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of El Dorado at a regular meeting of said Board, held the _____ day of _____, 20__, by the following vote of said Board:

Attest:
James S. Mitrisin
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

Ayes:
Noes:
Absent:

By: _____
Deputy Clerk

_____ Chair, Board of Supervisors