

**RESOLUTION 2019-06**

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING AND SIGNING ON TO THE “CALL TO ACTION” OF  
THE *STEPPING UP INITIATIVE TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE  
WITH MENTAL ILLNESSES IN JAILS***

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS,  
WASHINGTON COUNTY, NEBRASKA:**

**WHEREAS**, counties routinely provide treatment services to the estimated 2 million people with serious mental illnesses booked into jail each year;

**WHEREAS**, prevalence rates of serious mental illnesses in jails are three to six times higher than for the general public;

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

**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;

**WHEREAS**, county jails spend two to three times more on adults with mental illnesses that require interventions compared to those without these treatment needs;


**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;

**WHEREAS**, Washington County, Nebraska, and all counties take pride in their responsibility to protect and enhance the health, welfare, and safety of its residents in efficient and cost-effective ways;

WHEREAS, through *Stepping Up*, the National Association of Counties, The Council of State Governments Justice Center, and the American Psychiatric Association 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 THE WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY SUPERVISORS, WASHINGTON COUNTY, NEBRASKA, does hereby support and sign on to the “Call to Action” of the *Stepping Up Initiative to Reduce the Number of People with Mental Illnesses in our County Jail*, is committed to using the *Stepping Up* framework to guide our local efforts, and will share lessons learned with other counties in Nebraska and across the country.

The above and foregoing Resolution was duly approved by a vote of the Washington County Board of Supervisors at a public meeting duly held in accordance with applicable law on this 28<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2019.

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Chair, Washington County Board



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Washington County Clerk