

RESOLUTION 2018/3

**A RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES' INITIATIVE  
"STEPPING UP" TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WITH  
MENTAL ILLNESSES IN JAILS**

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

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

**WHEREAS**, almost three-quarters of adults with 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 illnesses; 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 loved ones; and

**WHEREAS**, Beaufort County takes pride in its responsibility to protect and enhance the health, welfare and safety of its residents in efficient and cost-effective ways; and

**WHEREAS**, the Beaufort County Human Services Department and its partners have collaborated since 2005 via *Together for Beaufort County* to develop a multidisciplinary team focused on addressing the complex needs of our community's vulnerable residents; and

**WHEREAS**, *Together for Beaufort County* is a process and a community-wide effort initiated by public, private and nonprofit agencies, along with interested citizens from throughout the county, designed to establish clear goals by which progress can be measured; and

**WHEREAS**, through the *Stepping Up* initiative, 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, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF BEAUFORT COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA** supports the *Stepping Up* national initiative to reduce the number of people with mental illnesses in the Beaufort County Detention Center; commits to sharing lessons learned with other counties; and encourages all county officials, employees, and stakeholders to participate in *Stepping Up*.

We further resolve to utilize the comprehensive resources available through *Stepping Up* and *Together for Beaufort County* to implement the following activities:

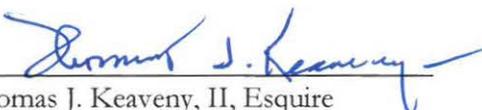
- The Beaufort County Human Services Department will leverage its partnerships to convene or draw on a diverse team of leaders and decision makers from multiple agencies committed to safely reduce the number of people with mental illness in the Beaufort County Detention Center; and
- The Beaufort County Human Services Department and the Beaufort County Detention Center will collect and review prevalence numbers and assess individuals' needs to better identify adults entering the County's detention center with mental illnesses and their recidivism risk, and use that baseline information to guide decision making at the system, program, and case levels with the assistance of the South Carolina Department of Mental Health, Beaufort Memorial Hospital, and other community partners and stakeholders; and
- The Beaufort County Human Services Department and the Beaufort County Detention Center, in partnership with the Beaufort County Alcohol and Drug Abuse Department and other community partners and stakeholders, will continue to 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, and identify state and local policy and funding barriers to minimizing contact with the justice system and providing treatment and supports in the community; and
- The Beaufort County Human Services Department, in collaboration with its partners and stakeholders, will continue to develop a plan with measurable outcomes that draws on the County's detention center assessment and prevalence data and the examination of available treatment and service capacity, while considering identified barriers; and
- The Beaufort County Human Services Department will recommend and implement research-based approaches that advance the plan, while developing a process to track progress using data and information systems, and to report on successes.

DONE this 19<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2018.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF BEAUFORT COUNTY

BY:   
D. Paul Sommerville, Chairman

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

  
Thomas J. Keaveny, II, Esquire  
Beaufort County Attorney

ATTEST:

  
Ashley M. Bennett, Clerk to Council