

Date: May 10, 2016

Resolution No. 16-399

Title: Commitment to Join the National Association of Counties' *Stepping Up* Initiative to Reduce the Number of People with Mental Illness in Jails

Department/Agency: Commissioners

Contact: Commissioner Tina Skeldon Wozniak

Summary/Background: The National Association of Counties, the Council of State Governments Justice Center and the American Psychiatric Association Foundation have developed the *Stepping Up* initiative to reduce the number of people with mental illness in jails. The *Stepping Up* initiative provides an opportunity for Lucas County to join a national network of counties committed to best practices to enhance the health, welfare and safety of its residents in efficient and cost-effective ways.

This is an important initiative that has impacts nationally and locally. National statistics show that the prevalence rates of serious mental illnesses in jails are three to six times higher than for the general population; almost three quarters of adults with serious mental illnesses in jails have co-occurring substance use disorder; 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. Similar trends can be found locally as a recent report by the Mental Health and Recovery Services Board of Lucas County (MHRSB) found that 57% of people released from the Lucas County Corrections Center have behavioral health needs and when names of individuals in custody were compared with those provided services by the MHRSB, 67% had been provided services at some point in their lives, 48% had been provided services within the last five years and 17% had been provided services within the last six months.

Lucas County has shown leadership and commitment to reducing the number of people with mental illness in its jail. Since 2001, Lucas County has offered Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) to local law enforcement to assist law enforcement officers to more effectively manage individuals in the community who are experiencing behavioral health crises due to mental illness and/or co-occurring substance use disorders. To date, over 500 professionals have been trained in CIT in our community. In 2014, Lucas County convened a diverse group of stakeholders to participate in a sequential intercept mapping exercise to identify areas in which the behavioral health and criminal justice systems interact and develop strategies to direct individuals to appropriate community resource. In 2015, Lucas County created a full time position in the jail to facilitate access to health insurance reducing barriers to treatment for individuals re-entering the community. In 2016, Lucas County implement a process to provide behavioral health screening for individuals booked into the jail to ensure they are both provided appropriate resources while in custody and appropriate linkage upon release.

Lucas County looks forward to sharing lessons learned from its accomplishments over the last few years while also embracing the innovations of its peer counties throughout the nation.

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Budget Impact: N/A

Statutory Authority/ORC: N/A

Commissioner Skeldon Wozniak offered the following resolution:

WHEREAS, in consideration of the above, NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners, Lucas County, Ohio, that:

Section 1. Lucas County does hereby sign on to the Call to Action to reduce people with mental illnesses in our county jail and commit to sharing lessons learned with other counties in the State of Ohio and across the country to support the national *Stepping Up* initiative.

Section 2. This Board finds and determines that all formal actions of this Board concerning and relating to the adoption of this resolution were taken in an open meeting of this Board and that all deliberations of this Board that resulted in those formal actions were in a meeting open to the public in compliance with the law.

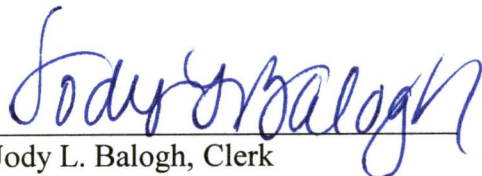
Section 3. This resolution shall be in full force and effect from and immediately upon its adoption.

Action Taken:

Commissioner Skeldon Wozniak voted yes

Commissioner Gerken voted yes

Commissioner Contrada voted yes



Jody L. Balogh, Clerk