

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF LANE COUNTY, OREGON

ORDER & RESOLUTION | IN THE MATTER OF ADOPTING THE STEPPING UP INITIATIVE
NO: 17-05-23-09

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

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

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

WHEREAS, across the nation, 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; and

WHEREAS, across the nation, 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 across the nation will continue to cycle through the criminal justice system, often resulting in tragic outcomes for these individuals and their families; and

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

WHEREAS, a safe and healthy county is a strategic priority of the Board adopted 2014-2017 Strategic Plan; and

WHEREAS, recent work in Lane County has been done in support of the Board's strategic priority and its objective of ensuring safety throughout our county. Examples of recent work includes:

- Implementation of the Behavioral Health/Criminal Justice Workgroup, a sub-committee of the Public Safety Coordinating Council. This group, composed of a multi-disciplinary team of behavioral health providers, law enforcement and court personnel, meet monthly to collaborate and coordinate efforts towards improving services and reducing the number of individuals with mental illness intersecting with the criminal justice system.
- Development of a work plan formed out of completion of the Sequential Intercept Mapping process. This process has identified where individuals with mental illness touch the criminal justice system and identifies gaps and system needs to prioritize efforts and resources.
- Increased behavioral health services in the Lane County Jail including 3.0 FTE of Lane County Behavioral Health Mental Health Specialists. These staff are dedicated to providing case management services and discharge planning in order to reduce recidivism rates and cycling through the criminal justice system.
- Creation of a Circuit Court Mental Health Court, linking individuals to treatment resources instead of incarceration. This offering joins other alternative court models including Drug Court, Veteran's Court and a Municipal Mental Health Court.

- Opening of the Hourglass Community Crisis Center, which offers 24/7 mental health crisis services to the local community and providing linkages to on-going mental health and substance abuse treatment needs.
- Implementation of the Lane County Behavioral Health Jail Intercept program aimed at removing individuals with mental illness from jail and providing on-going mental health treatment services.
- Support of the development of the Oaks housing complex, instituted by Sponsors, to provide 54 units of affordable, long-term permanent housing to individual with criminal histories, including veterans, seniors, and people with disabilities.
- Expansion of mobile mental health crisis services including 24/7 availability in the Eugene area and increased coverage in the Springfield area.
- Implementation of the LEDS Mental Health Database providing law enforcement with information to assist qualifying individuals in obtaining medical, mental health and social services.
- The 2016-2021 strategic plan of the Lane County Poverty and Homelessness Board which includes developing 600 additional housing opportunities throughout Lane County dedicated for chronically homeless individuals with particular needs including those with mental illness, drug and alcohol abuse problems, and those exiting criminal justice. Amongst these units are 100 Housing First units, offering low barrier housing options with supportive wrap around services.
- Addition of Lane County Behavioral Health as a service provider for the Eugene Community Court.
- Creation of space at Lane County Behavioral Health which will house Lane County Parole & Probation staff.
- Implementation of a Parole & Probation Behavioral Health Program at Sponsors where Lane County Behavioral Health staff provide behavioral health services to individuals returning to Lane County after incarceration.
- Addition of peer support services at Lane County's Methadone Treatment Program specific to individuals who are impacted by the corrections system; and

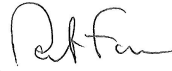
WHEREAS, through Stepping Up, the National Association of Counties, The Council of State Governments Justice Center, and the American Psychiatric Association Foundation are encouraging public, private, and nonprofit partners to reduce the number of people with mental illnesses in jails.

NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE ORDERED AND RESOLVED, THAT, Lane County adopts the Stepping Up Initiative and does hereby sign on to the call to action to reduce the number of people with mental illnesses in our county jail, commit to sharing lessons learned with other counties in our state and across the country to support a national initiative and encourage all county officials, employees, and residents to participate in Stepping Up. We resolve to utilize the comprehensive resources available through Stepping Up to:

- Convene or draw 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;
- Collect and review prevalence numbers and assess individuals' needs to better identify adults entering jails with mental illnesses and their recidivism risk, and use that baseline information to guide decision making at the system, program, and case levels;
- 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;

- 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;
- Implement research-based approaches that advance the plan; and
- Create a process to track progress using data and information systems, and to report on successes.

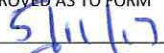
ADOPTED this 23rd day of May, 2017.



Pat Farr, Chair
Lane County Board of Commissioners

APPROVED AS TO FORM

Date



LANE COUNTY OFFICE OF LEGAL COUNSEL