

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
SANTA FE COUNTY

RESOLUTION NO. 2015- **66**

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE NATIONAL STEPPING UP INITIATIVE TO
REDUCE THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WITH MENTAL ILLNESSES IN JAILS AND
SIGNING ON TO THE INITIATIVE'S CALL TO ACTION**

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

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

WHEREAS, almost three-quarters of adults with serious 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 disorders; 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 families; and

WHEREAS, Santa Fe County (County) 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; and

WHEREAS, through the Electronic Monitoring Program, which utilizes the latest technology to constantly monitor persons assigned to the program, the County provides an inexpensive and non-intrusive, community-based alternative to traditional sentencing and incarceration, thereby helping to prevent the unnecessary confinement of mentally ill (and other) persons charged with or convicted of crimes; and

WHEREAS, the County employs the Teen Court Program to provide teen offenders with a second chance while holding them accountable for their actions, thereby attempting to interrupt and prevent developing patterns of criminal behavior by promoting self-esteem, motivating self-improvement, and providing teen offenders with community-based treatment and support; and

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners (Board) of the County as follows:

1. The Board supports the *Stepping Up* initiative.

2. The Board hereby (i) signs on to the Call to Action component of the *Stepping Up* initiative to reduce the number of people with mental illnesses in the County Adult Detention Facility; (ii) commits to sharing lessons learned with other counties in New Mexico and across the country to support a national initiative; and (iii) encourages all County officials, employees, and residents to participate in the *Stepping Up* initiative.

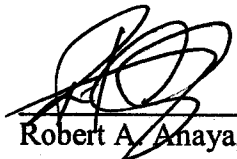
3. The Board resolves to utilize the comprehensive resources available through the *Stepping Up* initiative to:

- 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.
- 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 needs and prevalence assessment data and examination of available treatment and service capacity, while considering identified barriers.
- Implement research-based approaches that advance the plan.
- Create a process to track progress using data and information systems, and to report on successes.

4. The Board directs the County Manager and County staff to take appropriate action to implement this Resolution.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED this 28th day of April, 2015.

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF SANTA FE COUNTY

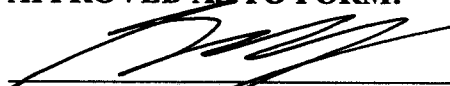

Robert A. Anaya, Chair



ATTEST:


Geraldine Salazar, County Clerk 4-28-2015

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

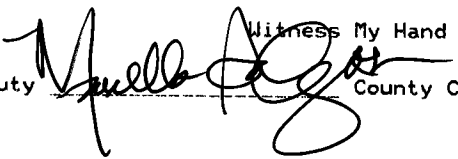

Gregory S. Shaffer, County Attorney



COUNTY OF SANTA FE)
STATE OF NEW MEXICO) ss

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PAGES: 3

I Hereby Certify That This Instrument Was Filed for
Record On The 30TH Day Of April, 2015 at 03:51:48 PM
And Was Duly Recorded as Instrument # 1763225
Of The Records Of Santa Fe County

Deputy  Witness My Hand And Seal Of Office
Geraldine Salazar
County Clerk, Santa Fe, NM