



VALENCIA BOUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
RESOLUTION № 2016-32

**STEPPING UP INITIATIVE TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WITH
MENTAL ILLNESSES IN JAILS**

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners met in a regularly scheduled meeting on Wednesday, April 20, 2016 at 5:00 p.m. in the Valencia County Administration Building 444 Luna Avenue, Los Lunas, New Mexico 87031; and,

WHEREAS, NMSA, 1978, Section 33-3-1 (1981) provides in pertinent part that “[t]he common jails shall be under the control of the respective sheriffs, independent contractors or jail administrators hired by the board of county commissioners or other local public body or combination thereof, and the same shall be used as prisons in the respective counties;” and,

WHEREAS, Section 4-37-1 *et seq.* NMSA 1978 provides that counties may adopt those resolutions and ordinances, not inconsistent with statutory or constitutional limitations placed on counties, to discharge those powers necessary and proper to provide for the safety, preserve the health, promote the prosperity and improve the morals, order, comfort and convenience of the county and its inhabitants; and,

WHEREAS, NMSA 1978, Section 33-3-5 (1984) provides that “[i]t shall be the duty of the sheriff, jail administrator or independent contractor of each jail of the several counties of this state to keep the jails of their respective counties clean and healthy. . .”; and,

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, Valencia 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,

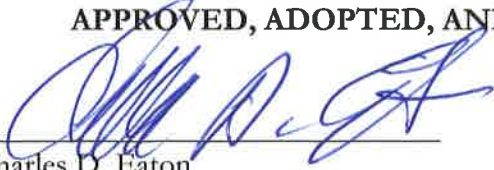
WHEREAS, through *Stepping Up*, the National Association of Counties, the Council of State Governments Justice Center and the American Psychiatric Association Foundation are encouraging public, private and nonprofit partners to reduce the number of people with mental illnesses in jails.

NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED, THAT I the Board of County Commissioners 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 my 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:

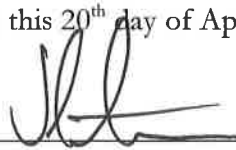
- Convene or draw on a diverse team of leaders and decision makers from multiple agencies committed to safely reducing the number of people with mental illnesses in jails.
- Collect and review prevalence numbers and assess individuals' needs to better identify adults entering jails with mental illnesses 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.
- Create a process to track progress using data and information systems, and to report on successes.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF VALENCIA

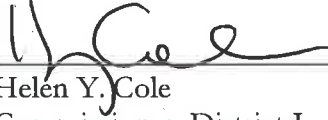
APPROVED, ADOPTED, AND PASSED on this 20th day of April, 2016.



Charles D. Eaton
Chair, District IV



Jhonathan Aragon
Vice-Chair, District V



Helen Y. Cole
Commissioner, District I



Alicia Aguilar
Commissioner, District II



David A. Hyder
Commissioner, District III

Attest:


Peggy Carabaja, County Clerk