



JOSEPH S. PAXTON
County Administrator



ROCKINGHAM COUNTY

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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Election District No. 1

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Election District No. 2

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Election District No. 3

WILLIAM B. KYGER, JR.

Election District No. 4

MICHAEL A. BREEDEN

Election District No. 5

RESOLUTION

“Stepping Up to Reduce the Number of People with Mental Illnesses in Jails”

WHEREAS, counties are called upon to provide treatment services in local jails to an estimated two million people each year in the U.S. that are diagnosed with serious mental illnesses; and,

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

WHEREAS, almost three-quarters of adults with serious mental illnesses in jails also have some form of substance use disorder; and,

WHEREAS, adults with mental illnesses tend to stay longer in jail and, upon release, are at a higher risk of recidivism than persons without these disorders; and,

WHEREAS, on average, county jails spend two to three times more on adults with mental illness that require intervention than those inmates without treatment needs; and,

WHEREAS, without appropriate treatment and services, persons with mental illness continue to cycle through the criminal justice system, often resulting in tragic outcomes for these individuals and their families; and,

WHEREAS, Rockingham County works diligently to protect and enhance the health, safety and welfare of residents in an efficient and cost-effective manner; and,

WHEREAS, Rockingham County and the City of Harrisonburg collaborated to establish Crisis Intervention Team Training, and more recently the Crisis Intervention Team Assessment Center with the regional medical center to divert persons from entering the criminal justice system by providing education for responders, and case specific assessment and treatment; 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 encourage public, private, and nonprofit partners to help ensure that only those persons with mental illness, who have committed offenses that appropriately require incarceration, are in jail, and that those persons in jail receive the necessary treatment on a case specific basis.

NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the Rockingham County Board of Supervisors endorses the *Stepping Up* initiative and commits to sharing best practices with other localities in the Commonwealth and across the country; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Rockingham County working with the City of Harrisonburg will utilize the comprehensive resources available through *Stepping Up* to:

- Seek the assistance of a diverse team from multiple agencies to safely reduce the number of persons with mental illnesses that are held in the local jail; and,
- Collect and evaluate medical data pertaining to adults entering jails to better determine those with mental illness, and project the risk of recidivism, and use that baseline information to guide decision making at the system, program, and case levels; and,

- Examine treatment and service capacity to determine which programs and services are available within the community for persons with mental illness and substance use disorders, and identify state and local policy and funding barriers to minimizing contact with the justice system, and to providing treatment and support in the community; and,
- Develop a plan with measurable outcomes to enable policy makers to evaluate the program within the jail using data from the local and regional jail; and,
- Create a process to track the outcomes using data and information systems, and to report on results.

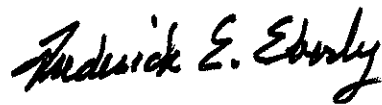
Given under our hand this thirteenth day of January
in the year two thousand sixteen, A.D.



William B. Kyger, Jr., Chairman
Supervisor, District 4



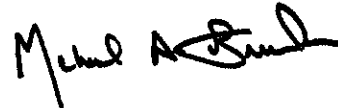
Pablo Cuevas
Supervisor, District 1



Frederick E. Eberly
Supervisor, District 2



Rick L. Chandler
Supervisor District 3



Michael A. Breeden
Supervisor, District 5

Attest:



Joseph S. Paxton
County Administrator