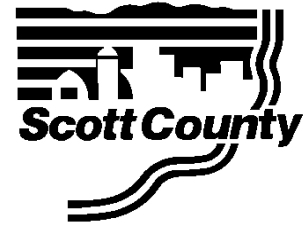


**Community Services Department**  
600 W. 4<sup>th</sup> St.  
Davenport, Iowa 52801



**(563) 326-8723      Fax (563) 326-8730**

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Date: May 18, 2017

To: Mahesh Sharma, County Administrator

From: Lori A. Elam, Community Services Director

RE: Stepping Up Initiative

The number of mentally ill people in jails and prisons is significantly higher than the general population and NACo understands that this creates a large financial burden to counties across the country. NACo has started the “Stepping Up” Initiative and I am asking that Scott County and the Eastern Iowa MH/DS Region support it.

The “Stepping Up” Initiative is attempting to reduce the number of people with mental illnesses in the county jails as well as encourage counties to share lessons learned to support a national initiative. All county officials, employees and residents are encouraged to participate in *Stepping Up*. When in support, the county would be eligible to use the comprehensive resources available 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.

Scott County is fortunate to be part of the Eastern Iowa MH/DS Region and is currently working on some of the above steps through the crisis contract with Robert Young Center. On October 24, 2017 ISAC is hosting the "Iowa Stepping Up Summit" in Des Moines. Counties have been encouraged to participate in the summit and bring teams who can begin working on an action plan that would have a measureable impact on the criminal justice systems across the state. I have heard from the County Attorney's office that they have interest in attending as well as staff from the Community Services Department. I will be contacting the jail to see if there is interest in attending the one day summit as well.

I will be available at the Committee of the Whole for questions.

# RSVP Today!

## THE STEPPING UP INITIATIVE

**What?** Stepping Up: A National Initiative to reduce the number of people with mental illness in jails.

The number of people with mental illness in U.S. jails has reached crisis levels. In counties across the nation, jails now have more people with mental illness than psychiatric hospitals.

Stepping Up asks communities to come together to develop an action plan that can be used to achieve measurable impact in local criminal justice systems of all sizes across the country.

As of May 2017, 41 Iowa Counties had signed a resolution and decided to take action in their communities.

**Iowa Stepping Up Summit  
October 24, 2017  
Hy-Vee Hall, Des Moines**

This summit will feature keynote speakers and breakout sessions that are action oriented and will conclude with a planning session of each county team. Programming will be pertinent to communities at all levels - just signed the resolution to those that have programs in place.

### Who?

County officials and employees from every Iowa Stepping Up county

- A group of five team members from each county is recommended. Each team member should represent a different agency/office. (e.g. sheriff, supervisor, county attorney, community services, etc.)

Others are encouraged to attend as well - partners, legislators, and non-stepping-up county officials and employee.

RSVP today to [rbennett@iowacounties.org](mailto:rbennett@iowacounties.org). Please include all team member names, email addresses, and titles. Registration will open in August 2017 with priority given to those who have RSVPed.

### When?

Tuesday, October 24, 2017 | Tentatively 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

### Where?

Hy-Vee Hall | 730 3rd Street | Des Moines, Iowa 50309

Questions? Contact Rachel Bennett at 515.244.7181 or [rbennett@iowacounties.org](mailto:rbennett@iowacounties.org).



# Proclamation

THE COUNTY AUDITOR'S SIGNATURE CERTIFIES THAT THIS RESOLUTION HAS BEEN FORMALLY APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ON _____ DATE
_____ SCOTT COUNTY AUDITOR

## SCOTT COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

June 15, 2017

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

**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**, Scott 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, BE RESOLVED by the Scott County Board of Supervisors as follows:**

Section 1. That the Board of Supervisors 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 Iowa and across the country to support a national initiative and encourage all county officials, employees and residents to participate in *Stepping Up*.

Section 2. The Board of Supervisors does 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 provide treatment and support 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.

Section 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: Carol Earnhardt  
Title: Chair

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: Tony Knobbe  
Title: Vice-Chair

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: Ken Beck  
Title: Supervisor

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: Diane Holst  
Title: Supervisor

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: Brinson Kinzer  
Title: Supervisor