

# Sandoval County Board of County Commissioners

## Agenda Item Summary

**AGENDA ITEM # 5-7-15.8B**

**1. REQUESTED MOTION**

**ACTION REQUESTED:**

Adopt Resolution No. 5-7-15.8B Supporting the Stepping Up Initiative to Reduce the Number of People with Mental Illnesses in Jails

**WHY ACTION IS NECESSARY (Summary):**

The County sees a critical need to address this issue. This resolution supports a national initiative to bring leaders and decision makers together to collect and review the number of individuals entering our detention facilities with mental illness and how to better deal with these individuals.

**2. REQUESTOR**

COMMISSIONER SPONSORED:  YES  NO

DISTRICT:  DISTRICT 1  DISTRICT 4  
 DISTRICT 2  DISTRICT 5  
 DISTRICT 3

DIRECTOR / ELECTED:

DIVISION:

ELECTED OFFICE:

ATTACHMENTS:  YES  NO

**3. MEETING DATE**

May 7, 2015

**4. AGENDA (To be completed by County Manager)**

- PROCLAMATION
- PRESENTATION
- CONSENT
- REGULAR
- APPEAL

**5. RECOMMENDATIONS**

Recommend Board of County Commission approval.

**6. FISCAL IMPACT**

None

**7. RECOMMENDED APPROVAL (Initials & Date)**

Department Director/Elected Official	Human Resources	Purchasing	Attorney As to Form PFT 5/4/15	Finance Budget	County Manager PPR 5/4/15	Other
_____	_____	_____		_____		_____

**8. COMMISSION ACTION**

- Approved     
  Denied     
  Deferred     
  Other



# SANDOVAL COUNTY

## RESOLUTION NO. 5-7-15.8B

### “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**, 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**, Sandoval County and all counties wish 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 Foundation are encouraging public, private and nonprofit partners to reduce the number of people with mental illnesses in jails.

**NOW THEREFORE BE RESOLVED** that 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 the State of New Mexico 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:

- Work with committed leaders and decision makers from the public and private sector to develop a plan to safely reduce the number of people with mental illnesses in jails.

- Collect and review prevalence numbers to identify adults entering jails with mental illnesses and their recidivism risk.
- 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 support in the community.

**APPROVED AND ADOPTED** by the Governing Body of Sandoval County, New Mexico, this 7<sup>th</sup> day of May 2015.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF SANDOVAL COUNTY**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Darryl F. Madalena, Chairman

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James Dominguez, Vice Chairman

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Nora Scherzinger, Member

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Don G. Chapman, Member

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Glenn Walters, Member

**ATTEST:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Eileen Garbagni, County Clerk

**APPROVED AS TO FORM:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Patrick Trujillo, County Attorney