

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

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

RESOLUTION NO. 16-298

**WHEREAS**, the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors recognize jails have become de facto psychiatric facilities nationwide with more than 2 million individuals with serious mental illnesses admitted each year; and

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

**WHEREAS**, almost three-quarters of individuals 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 individuals with mental illnesses, yet fail to see improvements to public safety, recidivism rates, or individuals' recovery; and

**WHEREAS**, keeping individuals out of jails and on the road to recovery requires a collaborative approach between all criminal justice agencies and mental health and substance use treatment agencies; and

**WHEREAS**, the Stepping Up Initiative encourages county leaders to designate or convene a diverse team of leaders and stakeholders to carry out a six-step planning process that can yield measurable reductions in the number of adults with mental illnesses cycling through the nations jails; and

**WHEREAS**, the Initiative provides sheriffs, relevant stakeholders, and other team members with no-cost distance-learning opportunities, peer-to-peer exchanges, expert guidance, and a suite of resources to carry out these county-led plans; and


**WHEREAS**, the Initiative promotes crisis intervention team training and other specialized law enforcement responses that are supported by community-based resources; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors actively support the work of the Stepping Up Initiative that is led by the National Association of Counties, the Council of State Governments Justice Center, and

the American Psychiatric Foundation to make more effective use of strained budgets and safely reduce the number of adults with mental illnesses in jails by connecting them to community-based treatment and services when possible.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara, this 13<sup>th</sup> day of December 2016.

AYES: Supervisor Carbajal, Wolf, Farr, Adam & Lavagnino  
NOS: None  
ABSTAIN: None  
ABSENT: None

  
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CHAIR Board of Supervisors  
County of Santa Barbara

ATTEST:  
CLERK OF THE BOARD

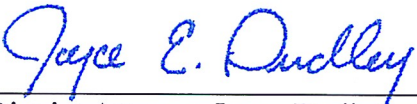
By:   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:  
MICHAEL C. GHIZZONI, COUNTY COUNSEL SHERIFF'S OFFICE

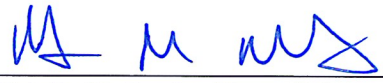
By:   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy County Counsel

By:   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Undersheriff Melekian


DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

By:   
\_\_\_\_\_  
District Attorney Joyce Dudley

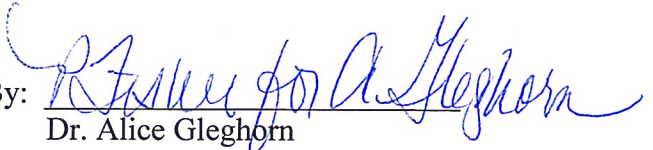
PUBLIC DEFENDER'S OFFICE

By:   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Public Defender Tracy Macuga

COUNTY PROBATION

By:   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Guadalupe Rabago

BEHAVIORAL WELLNESS

By:   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Dr. Alice Gleghorn