

RESOLUTION NO. 2015201

RE: STEPPING UP INITIATIVE

Legislators ROMAN, FLESLAND, PULVER, ROLISON, BOLNER, STRAWINSKI, PERKINS, JETER-JACKSON, SAGLIANO, WEISS, JOHNSON, and FARLEY offer the following and move its adoption:

WHEREAS, The National Association of Counties (NACo), the Council of State Governments (CSG) Justice Center and the American Psychiatric Foundation have joined together to lead a national initiative to help advance efforts to reduce the number of adults with mental health, chemical dependency and co-occurring disorders in local jails, and

WHEREAS, the initiative asks counties to pass Resolutions to raise awareness of the factors contributing to the over representation of people with mental health issues in our jails and to help share effective practices and strategies, and

WHEREAS, The National Association of Counties (NACo) estimates that 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, without the appropriate treatment and services, people with mental illnesses continue to cycle through the criminal justice system, and

WHEREAS, Dutchess County takes pride in their responsibility to protect and enhance the health, welfare and safety of its residents in efficient and cost-effective ways, and

WHEREAS, the County has a Criminal Justice Council that engages in a collaborative process of information sharing to maximize resources using research-based practices, and

WHEREAS, the Criminal Justice Council has created a Special Populations Committee to examine effective practices and programs for individuals with behavioral health needs, and

WHEREAS, the Criminal Justice Council has also created a Diversion Committee to address the needs of individuals with behavioral health issues and this Committee has taken steps to create a Crisis Stabilization and Wellness Center to divert eligible individuals from the jail and hospitalization, and

WHEREAS, this Center is modeled after the successful Bexar County, Texas model, and

WHEREAS, the Diversion Committee has arranged for Crisis Intervention Training for law enforcement personnel in the County to equip them with the knowledge and skills necessary to deal with individuals exhibiting severe behavioral health issues, and

WHEREAS, the Department of Mental Hygiene has a jail-based behavioral health team, a mobile crisis team and other resources to assist those in need of services, and

WHEREAS, the Office of Probation and Community Corrections has mental health professionals on-site to assess and offer services for adults and juveniles with behavioral health issues, and

WHEREAS, the County has designed a multi-agency jail-based program, known as RESTART, that has programming for behavioral health needs with a strong community transition component, and

WHEREAS, the County, through its Criminal Justice Council, will continue to explore research-based approaches, examine data to enhance decision-making and determine which programs and initiatives will help to achieve our goals, and

WHEREAS, evidence-based assessment and treatment will guide decision-making at the system, program and case levels to safely reduce the number of people with behavioral health issues in jail, and

WHEREAS, through the *Stepping Up* initiative, 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 health, chemical dependency and co-occurring disorders illnesses in jails, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Dutchess County Legislature does hereby join the Call to Action to reduce the number of people with mental health, chemical dependency and co-occurring disorders in our county jail, commit to sharing lessons learned with other counties in support of this national initiative and encourage all county officials, employees and residents to participate in *Stepping Up*.

STATE OF NEW YORK

ss:

COUNTY OF DUTCHESS

This is to certify that I, the undersigned Clerk of the Legislature of the County of Dutchess have compared the foregoing resolution with the original resolution now on file in the office of said clerk, and which was adopted by said Legislature on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of August 2015, and that the same is a true and correct transcript of said original resolution and of the whole thereof.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal of said Legislature this 10<sup>th</sup> day of August 2015.

CAROLYN MORRIS, CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE