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BERNALILLO COUNTY

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

ADMINISTRATIVE RESOLUTION NO. 2015-37

**A RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES
STEPPING UP INITIATIVE TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WITH
MENTAL ILLNESS IN THE METROPOLITAN DETENTION CENTER**

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, Bernalillo County takes seriously its responsibility to protect and enhance the health, welfare and safety of its residents in efficient and cost-effective ways; and

WHEREAS, Bernalillo County has an obligation to protect the health and safety of Metropolitan Detention Center (MDC) corrections staff and inmates; and

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26 **WHEREAS**, the population at MDC has dropped significantly over the past 18 months
27 through initiatives developed by Bernalillo County and its partners in the criminal justice system;
28 and

29 **WHEREAS**, MDC has begun implementing a pilot program to enroll inmates in New
30 Mexico’s Medicaid system; and

31 **WHEREAS**, Bernalillo County has allocated \$1 million to create 70 supportive housing
32 units for individuals who are incarcerated but eligible for release and who have been identified as
33 having a mental illness, substance abuse or co-occurring disorders, and are homeless or
34 precariously housed, and to connect this vulnerable population with resources and services that
35 promote stability and prevent recidivism; and

36 **WHEREAS**, the Bernalillo County Commission has implemented a 1/8 cent gross
37 receipts tax to expand access to behavioral health services; and

38 **WHEREAS**, Bernalillo County has engaged a consultant to advise the County
39 Commission on the development of a behavioral health “business plan”, to include strategies for
40 alternatives to incarceration for residents with behavioral health disorders; and

41 **WHEREAS**, through *Stepping Up* , the National Association of Counties, the Council of
42 State Governments Justice Center and the American Psychiatric Foundation are encouraging
43 public, private and nonprofit partners to reduce the number of people with mental illnesses in
44 jails;

45 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Bernalillo County Board of County
46 Commissioners does hereby commit to continuing efforts to reduce the number of people with
47 mental illnesses in the MDC; commit to sharing lessons learned with other counties in New
48 Mexico and across the country to support a national initiative and encourage all county officials,

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49 employees and residents to participate in *Stepping Up*. We resolve to utilize the comprehensive
50 resources available through *Stepping Up* to:

- 51 1. Convene or draw on a diverse team of leaders and decision makers from multiple
52 agencies committed to safely reducing the number of people with mental illnesses in jails.
- 53 2. Collect and review prevalence numbers and assess individuals' needs to better identify
54 adults entering jails with mental illnesses and their recidivism risk, and use that baseline
55 information to guide decision making at the system, program, and case levels.
- 56 3. Examine treatment and service capacity to determine which programs and services are
57 available in the county for people with mental illnesses and co-occurring substance use
58 disorders, and identify state and local policy and funding barriers to minimizing contact
59 with the justice system and providing treatment and supports in the community.
- 60 4. Develop a plan with measurable outcomes that draws on the jail assessment and
61 prevalence data and the examination of available treatment and service capacity, while
62 considering identified barriers.
- 63 5. Implement research-based approaches that advance the plan.
- 64 6. Create a process to track progress using data and information systems, and to report on
65 successes.

66
67 **DONE** this 12 day of May, 2015.
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70 APPROVED AS TO FORM

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

71 _____
72 Randy M. Autio
73 County Attorney
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80 ATTEST:

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82 _____
83 Maggie Toulouse Oliver
84 County Clerk
