

Resolution



ORDER NO. 2015-0932

DATE: July 7, 2015

STATE OF TEXAS §

COUNTY OF DALLAS §

"Stepping Up Initiative to Reduce the Number of People with Mental Illnesses in Jails"

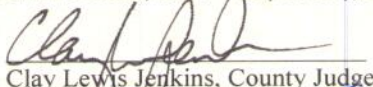
BE IT REMEMBERED, at a regular meeting of the Commissioners Court of Dallas County, Texas, held on the 7th day of July, 2015 on motion made by Dr. Theresa Daniel, Commissioner of District 1 and seconded by Dr. Elba Garcia, Commissioner of District 4, the following resolution was adopted:

- WHEREAS**, Counties routinely provide treatment services to the estimated 2 million people with serious mental illnesses booked into jail each year. 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 disorder. 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 who require interventions compared to those without these treatment needs. 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**, Dallas County values the integration of physical and behavioral healthcare while recognizing the social determinants of health and 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**, Dallas County has several collaborative policy and planning groups designed to reduce and divert the mentally ill in jail such as the Behavioral Health Leadership Team, the Behavioral Health Steering Committee, the Behavioral Health Housing Work Group, the Criminal Justice Advisory Board; and Jail Population Committee; and
- WHEREAS**, Dallas County has various initiatives that include Mental Health and Substance Abuse Specialty/Diversion Courts, designated Public Defender/District Attorney Mental Health Teams, Pre Book-in Diversion programs, Crisis Intervention and Mobile Crisis Teams, as well as the Crisis Services/1115 Waiver Project, the Competency Restoration Units, Parkland Correctional Health Program, Jail Instant Messaging which provides real-time data matching book-in and behavioral health utilization; the Serial Inebriate Program, and the Forensic Mental Health Diversion Program; and
- WHEREAS**, Dallas County embraces the national initiative *Stepping Up*, created by the National Association of Counties, the Council of State Governments Justice Center and the American Psychiatric Foundation, designed to encourage public, private and nonprofit partners to reduce the number of people with mental illnesses in jails.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Dallas County Commissioners Court 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 Texas and across the country to support a national initiative and encourage all county officials, employees and residents to participate in *Stepping Up*. Dallas County resolves to utilize the comprehensive resources available through *Stepping Up* to support:

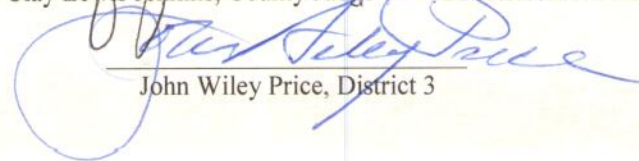
- A diverse team of leaders and decision makers from multiple agencies committed to safely reducing the number of people with mental illnesses in jails.
- Collecting and reviewing prevalence numbers and assessing individuals' needs to better identify adults entering jails with mental illnesses and their recidivism risk, and use that baseline information to guide decision making at the system, program, and case levels.
- Examining the 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 identifying state and local policy and funding barriers to minimizing contact with the justice system and providing treatment and supports in the community.
- Developing 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.
- Implementing research-based approaches to develop best practices and alternative programs that advance the goal of reducing the number of mentally ill and substance abuse inmates in the jail and the criminal justice system.
- Creating a process to track progress using data and information systems, and to report on successes.

DONE IN OPEN COURT, this 7th day of July, 2015.


Clay Lewis Jenkins, County Judge


Dr. Theresa M. Daniel, District 1


Mike Cantrell, District 2


John Wiley Price, District 3


Dr. Elba Garcia, District 4