



RESOLUTION # 49-3/23

TO: HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE LA CROSSE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

ITEM # 3-8

BOARD ACTION

Adopted:
For: 25
Against: 0
Abstain: 0
Abs/Excd: 5
Vote Req: -
Other Action: -

JUDICIARY AND LAW COMMITTEE ACTION

Adopted:
For: 4
Against: 0
Abstain: 0
Abs/Excd: 1

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE ACTION

Adopted:
For: 6
Against: 0
Abstain: 0
Abs/Excd: 2/1

RE: 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, 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, La Crosse County and all counties take pride in our responsibility 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 Association Foundation are encouraging public, private and nonprofit partners to reduce the number of people with mental illnesses in jails;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the La Crosse County Board of Supervisors do hereby sign on to the Call to Action to reduce the number of people with mental illnesses in the county jail, commit to sharing lessons learned with other counties in the state 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:

- Convene or draw on a diverse team of leaders and decision makers from multiple agencies committed to safely reducing the number of people with mental illnesses in jails.
- Collect and review prevalence numbers and assess 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.
- 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 supports in the community.

RE: STEPPING UP INITIATIVE TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WITH MENTAL ILLNESSES IN JAILS

- Develop 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.
- Implement research-based approaches that advance the plan.
- Create a process to track progress using data and information systems, and to report on successes.

FISCAL NOTE: The 2023 budget includes 1976 hours and \$94,764 in Human Services staff costs for support to inmates.

Date: 7 March 2023

Margaret Larson
COMMITTEE CHAIR

Lisa Bruring
RECORDING CLERK

Date: 3/7/23

Clifford J. Scott
COMMITTEE CHAIR

Jeff Buchler
RECORDING CLERK

	Reviewed Only	Recommended	Not Recommended	
Co. Admin.		<u><i>JK</i></u>		Requested By: Criminal Justice Management Council Date Requested: February 22, 2023 Drafted By: Corporation Counsel
Fin. Director	<u><i>MP</i></u>			
Corp. Counsel	<u><i>MP</i></u>			
Board Chair	<u><i>MP</i></u>			

Adopted by the La Crosse County Board this 16 Day of March, 2023

STATE OF WISCONSIN
COUNTY OF LA CROSSE
I, Ginny Dankmeyer, County Clerk of La Crosse County do hereby certify that this document is a true and correct copy of the original resolution required by law to be in my custody and which the County Board of Supervisors of La Crosse County adopted at a meeting held on the 16th day of March 2023.

Ginny Dankmeyer
Ginny Dankmeyer, La Crosse County Clerk