

Board of Commissioners
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Alamance County

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
124 West Elm Street
Graham, NC 27253-2865

County Manager
Craig Honeycutt
County Attorney
Clyde Albright
Clerk to the Board
Tory M. Frink, NCCCC



“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 jails each year

and WHEREAS, prevalence rates of serious mental illnesses in confinement facilities are three to six times higher than for the general population, with statistics showing that almost 13% of North Carolina’s prison population requires some type of intervention due to mental health issues;

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 can continue to cycle through the criminal justice system, often resulting in tragic outcomes for these individuals, their families, and their communities;

and WHEREAS, county jails are generally an unsafe environment for those with mental health treatment needs;

and WHEREAS, the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners has undertaken a serious effort to address the local service needs of those with mental illnesses through the appointment of a special Task Force;

and WHEREAS, **Alamance County**, like all counties, takes pride in our responsibility to protect and enhance the health, welfare and safety of our residents in efficient, safe, and socially just ways;

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 counties to reduce the number of people with mental illnesses in county jails;

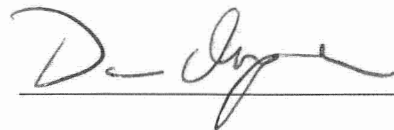
Now therefore, be it resolved by the **Alamance County Board of Commissioners**,

1. That the **Alamance County Board of Commissioners** does hereby sign on to the Call to Action to reduce the number of people with mental illnesses in our county jail and commits to sharing lessons learned with other counties in North Carolina and across the country to support the Stepping Up Initiative; and

2. That the **Alamance County Board of Commissioners** will utilize resources available through the Stepping Up Initiative and other resources provided by the Council of State Governments Justice Center to convene a diverse team of leaders and decision makers from multiple agencies who are committed to safely reducing the number of people with mental illnesses in jails, and

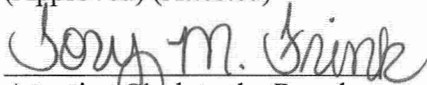
3. That this team will utilize the comprehensive resources available through the Stepping Up Initiative to develop a plan to reduce the number of people with mental illness in the county jail for 2016-2020, consistent with the Council of State Governments Justice Center report and recommendations, to be presented to the Board of Commissioners at its first meeting in December 2015.

PASSED AND APPROVED on this 3rd day of August, 2015.



Dan Ingle, Chairman
Alamance County Board of Commissioners

(Approved) (Attested)



Cory M. Grimb
Attesting Clerk to the Board

Adopted the 3rd day of August, 2015.

