

ST. TAMMANY PARISH COUNCIL

RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION COUNCIL SERIES NO: C-4487

COUNCIL SPONSOR: TANNER/BRISTER

PROVIDED BY: PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE ST. TAMMANY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH TASK FORCE IN SUBMITTING AN APPLICATION TO THE STEPPING UP PROGRAM FOR COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN THE APRIL 2016 SUMMIT.

WHEREAS, parishes and counties across the nation routinely provide treatment services to the estimated 2 million people with serious mental illnesses booked into jail each year;

WHEREAS, prevalence rates of serious mental illnesses in jails are three to six times higher than for the general public;

WHEREAS, almost three-quarters of adults with serious mental illnesses in jails have co-occurring substance use disorders;

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;

WHEREAS, jails spend two to three times more on adults with mental illnesses that require interventions compared to those without these treatment needs;

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;

WHEREAS, St. Tammany Parish and all parishes take pride in their responsibility to protect and enhance the health, welfare, and safety of its residents in efficient and cost-effective ways;

WHEREAS, St. Tammany Parish Government has developed its Behavioral Health Task Force and Safe Haven Campus in an effort to address these very same issues through a jail diversion program; 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.

THE PARISH OF ST. TAMMANY HEREBY RESOLVES that to reduce the number of people with mental illnesses in our parish jail, commit to sharing lessons learned with other parishes in Louisiana and across the country to support a national initiative and encourage all county and parish 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 parish 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;

- 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; and

- Create a process to track progress using data and information systems, and to report on successes.

THIS RESOLUTION HAVING BEEN SUBMITTED TO A VOTE, THE VOTE THEREON WAS AS FOLLOWS:

MOVED FOR ADOPTION BY: _____ SECONDED BY: _____

YEAS: _____

NAYS: _____

ABSTAIN: _____

ABSENT: _____

THIS RESOLUTION WAS DECLARED ADOPTED ON THE 14 DAY OF JANUARY , 2016, AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL, A QUORUM OF THE MEMBERS BEING PRESENT AND VOTING.

, COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

THERESA L. FORD, COUNCIL CLERK

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENT

January 14, 2016

President's Office

The St. Tammany Behavioral Health Task Force wishes to submit an application to the Stepping Up initiative for an award to have community members participate in the April 2016 summit and the process requires a resolution in support of this application.