

Buffalo County Resolution



Drafted By:
Brenda Berning
Presented Month/Year:
October 2019
Involved Committees:
Finance Committee

County Department:
CJS
Fiscal Impact: YES / NO
AC Approved: YES / NO

RESOLUTION # 19-12-04

A RESOLUTION TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WITH MENTAL ILLNESS IN JAILS

WHEREAS, counties routinely deal with the treatment needs of 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 public, 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 time and money 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 this County and all counties take pride in their responsibility to protect and enhance the health, welfare, and safety of its residents in efficient and cost-effective ways, and;

WHEREAS the Buffalo Pepin Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) is working to develop services such as the Community Justice Services (CJS) program, which helps people stay out of jail by coordinating and referring to mental health and substance use disorder treatment services, and;

WHEREAS the Stepping Up Initiative is a group of judges, law enforcement officers, mental health professionals and other community members working together on a national level to reduce the number of people with mental illnesses in jails, 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 Buffalo County Board of Supervisors do hereby applaud the efforts of the Stepping Up Call to Action to reduce the number of people with mental illnesses and substance abuse in our county jail, commit to sharing lessons learned with other counties in Wisconsin and across the country to support a national initiative, and;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Buffalo County acknowledges the criminal behavior causative factors associated with mental illness and substance abuse issues and supports continued joint efforts among counties and with the state to reduce recidivism by bringing needed services to offenders, and;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Buffalo County urges that the State of Wisconsin provide counties access to funding of treatment and services for jail inmates suffering from serious mental illnesses and/or substance use disorders, and;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Buffalo County Clerk is instructed to send a copy of this resolution to Governor Evers, and the Assembly and Senate Legislators serving Buffalo

Roxan M. Halverson
County Clerk

ATTEST:

Maryanne McMillan Urel
County Board Chairperson

Respectfully submitted:

COMMUNITY JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL

Greg Barlow, Chair

Audrey Lieffring

Craig Brooks

Craig Brooks

Dave Rynders

Gina Rieck

Jamie Gibson

John Kriesel

Mary Anne McMillan Urel

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Jon Seifert

Melissa Buesgen

Michael Schmidt

Michael Schmidt

Paula Winter

Renee Pronschinske




Sonya Hansen



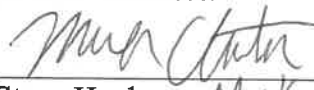
Susan Krisik

Tom Bilski

Phil Wicktor



Roselle Schlosser



Steve Hughes



Tanisha Bautch

Finance Committee

Larry Grisen
Larry Grisen

Donald Hillert
Donald Hillert

Mary Anne McMillan Urell
Mary Anne McMillan Urell

Nettie Rosenow
Nettie Rosenow

David Danzinger
David Danzinger

ANTICIPATED FINANCIAL IMPACT STATEMENT TO COUNTY :

No direct tax levy impact if adopted. Tax Levy impact would be positive for County if implemented by State.