

RESOLUTION NO. 2015 - 102

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

**WHEREAS**, national 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**, the Missoula County Detention Center is not the appropriate place for treatment of mental health issues; 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**, Missoula County takes pride in their responsibility to protect and enhance the health, welfare and safety of its residents in efficient and cost-effective ways; and

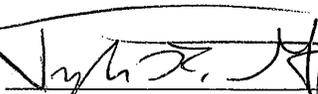
**WHEREAS**, Missoula County has implemented several efforts which consider the reduction of incarceration of the mentally ill; and

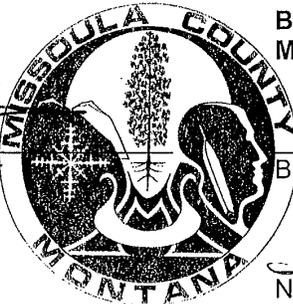
**WHEREAS**, through *Stepping Up*, the National Association of Counties, the Council of State Governments Justice Center and the American Psychiatric Association Foundation are encouraging public, private and non-profit partners to reduce the number of people with mental illnesses in jails;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE RESOLVED THAT** the Missoula Board of County Commissioners 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 our state and across the country to support a national initiative and encourage all county officials, employees and residents to participate in *Stepping Up*.

**PASSED AND APPROVED ON THIS** 15<sup>th</sup> **DAY OF** September, 2015.

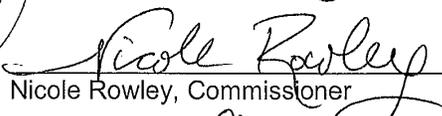
ATTEST

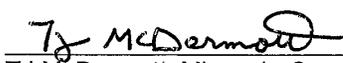
  
Clerk & Recorder/Treasurer



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