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3 A resolution by Supervisors West, Alexander, Cullen, Sartori, and Johnson, Jr. that
4 supports joining the "Stepping Up" initiative, which aims to reduce the number of people
5 with mental illness who are jailed, by recommending adoption of the following:
6

7 **A RESOLUTION**
8

9 WHEREAS, counties routinely provide treatment services to an estimated
10 2 million people with serious mental illnesses who are booked into jail each year; and
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12 WHEREAS, the prevalence rate of individuals with serious mental illness who
13 are in jail is three to six times higher than for the general public; and
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15 WHEREAS, almost three-quarters of adults with serious mental illnesses who
16 are in jail have co-occurring substance use disorders; and
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18 WHEREAS, adults with mental illnesses tend to stay in jail longer; and
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20 WHEREAS, upon release, adults with mental illness are at a higher risk of
21 recidivism than people without these disorders; and
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23 WHEREAS, county jails spend two to three times more on adults with mental
24 illnesses versus those who do not need interventions; and
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26 WHEREAS, without the appropriate treatment and services, people with mental
27 illness continue to cycle through the criminal justice system, often resulting in tragic
28 outcomes for these individuals and their families; and
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30 WHEREAS, Milwaukee County (the County) and all counties take pride in their
31 responsibility to protect and enhance the health, welfare, and safety of their residents in
32 efficient and cost-effective ways; and
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34 WHEREAS, the following Wisconsin counties have "Stepped Up" and passed
35 resolutions supporting this initiative: Bayfield, Dane, Dunn, Eau Claire, Marathon,
36 Outagamie, and Sauk; and
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38 WHEREAS, the County is already implementing strategies to reduce the daily jail
39 population, including diverting and helping individuals with mental health concerns; and
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41 WHEREAS, these efforts are bolstered by the Milwaukee Community Justice
42 Council's successful bid for a \$2 million grant funded by the John D. and
43 Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation; and
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45 WHEREAS, joining "Stepping Up" is the next step in the County's effort to
46 reduce the number of adults with mental illness in its jail; and

47 WHEREAS, through "Stepping Up", the National Association of Counties, the
48 Council of State Governments Justice Center, and the American Psychiatric
49 Association Foundation encourage public, private, and nonprofit partners to reduce the
50 number of people with mental illnesses in jails; and

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52 WHEREAS, the Committee on Judiciary, Safety, and General Services, at its
53 special meeting of December 15, 2016, recommended adoption of this resolution
54 (vote 5-0); now, therefore,

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56 BE IT RESOLVED, Milwaukee County (the County) is committed to reducing the
57 number of people with mental illnesses in the county jail and sharing lessons learned
58 with other counties in the State and across the country; and

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60 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the County supports the "Stepping Up" initiative
61 and encourages all County officials, employees, and residents to participate in
62 "Stepping Up"; and

63
64 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the County resolves to utilize the free
65 comprehensive resources available through "Stepping Up" to achieve the following:

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- 67 • Convene or draw on a diverse team of leaders and decision makers from
68 multiple agencies committed to safely reducing the number of people with mental
69 illnesses in jails;
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71 • Collect and review prevalence numbers and assess individuals' needs to better
72 identify adults entering jails with mental illnesses and their recidivism risk, and
73 use that baseline information to guide decision making at the system, program,
74 and case levels;
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76 • Examine treatment and service capacity to determine which programs and
77 services are available in the county for people with mental illnesses and co-
78 occurring substance use disorders, and identify state and local policy and
79 funding barriers to minimizing contact with the justice system and providing
80 treatment and supports in the community;
 - 81
82 • Develop a plan with measurable outcomes that draws on the jail assessment and
83 prevalence data, as well as the examination of available treatment and service
84 capacity, while considering identified barriers;
 - 85
86 • Implement research-based approaches that advance the plan; and
 - 87
88 • Create a process to track progress using data and information systems, and to
89 report on successes.
- 90

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93 12/15/16

