

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND
2025 Legislative Session

Resolution No. CR-015-2025
Proposed by Council Member Oriadha
Introduced by Council Members Oriadha, Ivey, Hawkins, Fisher and Watson
Co-Sponsors _____
Date of Introduction February 18, 2025

RESOLUTION

1 A RESOLUTION concerning

2 Support for Non-Carceral Mental Health Care

3 For the purpose of expressing the Prince George's County Council's Support of Non-Carceral
4 Mental Health Care in the Spirit of the People's Response Act.

5 WHEREAS, many formerly incarcerated individuals in Prince George's County suffer from
6 mental health conditions that are often exacerbated by the stressors of incarceration and reentry;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, the community and its leadership place a high value on the mental health and
9 general wellbeing of Prince George's County people; and

10 WHEREAS, individuals experiencing mental health crises may find themselves
11 criminalized as a result of conventional law enforcement responses, which may result in
12 unnecessary and harmful encounters with the criminal justice system; and

13 WHEREAS, providing comprehensive mental health care to people who are incarcerated is
14 an affordable tactic that helps the criminal justice system function more efficiently while also
15 enhancing public health; and

16 WHEREAS, The People's Response Act, H.R. 4194, 117th Congress (2021-2022) has yet to
17 become federal law, the bill would establish multiple grant programs and requirements to
18 promote qualified approaches to community safety. These are programs or services that are
19 disconnected from carceral institutions (e.g., law enforcement, child welfare services, and
20 immigration enforcement); and

21 WHEREAS, The People's Response Act would establish the Division of Community
22 Safety within the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to administer the grants and

1 carry out related activities. These include grants for community-based organizations to support
2 qualified approaches to community safety, such as:

- 3 • unarmed first responder agencies and 9-1-1 diversion programs;
- 4 • neighborhood-level interventions, including safe passage to school and violence
5 interruption programs;
- 6 • behavioral health treatment, nutrition support, and other public health programs;
- 7 • housing security programs; and
- 8 • programs for youth and families, survivors of violence, and individuals exiting
9 incarceration or criminal supervision; and

10 WHEREAS, non-carceral, community-based solutions that prioritize the rights, dignity, and
11 health of people experiencing mental health challenges are crucial in resolving mental health
12 crises, as highlighted by the People's Response Act.

13 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Council of Prince George's
14 County, Maryland, that the Prince George's County Council encourages and is in favor of
15 creating and implementing programs for incarcerated individuals that provide non-carceral
16 mental health care. The following elements of these programs should include but not be limited
17 to:

- 18 1. Support for Non-Carceral Mental Health Care: The People's Response Act's guiding
19 principles are hereby endorsed by the Prince George's County Council, which also
20 pledges to investigate and adopt non-carceral methods of providing mental health
21 services in our neighborhood.
- 22 2. Creation of Crisis Response for Mental Health in the Community: The County Council
23 wants community-based mental health crisis response teams made up of social workers,
24 peer support experts, and trained mental health professionals specifically the Community
25 Health Workers in Maryland to be revamped and funded to offer people in crisis with
26 timely, appropriate, and compassionate care.
- 27 3. Working Together with Community Partners: To create and carry out efficient non-
28 carceral mental health care initiatives, the County Council pledges to work in conjunction

1 with community organizations, mental health advocacy groups, medical professionals,
2 the Community Health Workers in Maryland and other relevant parties.

- 3 4. Comprehensive Evaluation and Treatment: Providing in-depth evaluations of mental
4 health issues as well as customized treatment programs that take care of both short-term
5 and long-term mental health requirements.
- 6 5. Education and Training: To guarantee culturally appropriate and effective care, mental
7 health professionals should receive education on the unique needs and difficulties faced
8 by individuals who have served time in prison.
- 9 6. Monitoring and Assessment: Putting in place a framework for continuous observation
10 and assessment of mental health initiatives to make sure they are fulfilling the
11 requirements of people who have served time in prison and producing the intended
12 results.

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that providing non-carceral mental health treatment to
14 people who have served time in prison is a practical way to improve community health and
15 public safety in addition to being a humanitarian and moral decision. The Prince George's
16 County Council is urged to act and provides its support to this important project.

Adopted this 1st day of April, 2025.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE
GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

BY:



Edward P. Burroughs III
Chair

ATTEST:



Donna J. Brown
Clerk of the Council