

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND
2015 Legislative Session

Resolution No. CR-31-2015

Proposed by Council Members Toles and Lehman

Introduced by Council Members Toles, Lehman, Turner, Franklin, Glaros,
Taveras and Patterson

Date of Introduction June 16, 2015

RESOLUTION

1 A RESOLUTION concerning

2 The Stepping Up Initiative

3 For the purpose of supporting the reduction of the number of people with mental illnesses in the
4 correctional system.

5 WHEREAS, counties routinely provide treatment services to the estimated 2 million people
6 with serious mental illnesses booked into the correctional system each year; and

7 WHEREAS, prevalence rates of serious mental illnesses in correctional system are three to
8 six times higher than for the general population; and

9 WHEREAS, almost three-quarters of adults with serious mental illnesses in the correctional
10 system have co-occurring substance use disorders; and

11 WHEREAS, adults with mental illnesses tend to stay longer in the correctional system and
12 upon release are at a higher risk of recidivism than people without these disorders; and

13 WHEREAS, county correctional systems spend two to three times more on adults with
14 mental illnesses that require interventions compared to those without these treatment needs; and

15 WHEREAS, without the appropriate treatment and services, people with mental illnesses
16 continue to cycle through the criminal justice system, often resulting in tragic outcomes for these
17 individuals and their families; and

18 WHEREAS, Prince George’s County takes pride in their responsibility to protect and
19 enhance the health, welfare and safety of its residents in efficient and cost-effective ways; and

20 WHEREAS, through Stepping Up , the National Association of Counties, the Council of
21 State Governments Justice Center and the American Psychiatric Foundation are encouraging
22 public, private and nonprofit partners to reduce the number of people with mental illnesses in the

1 correctional system;

2 NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED by the County Council of Prince George's
3 County, Maryland, that we do hereby sign on to the Call to Action to reduce the number of
4 people with mental illnesses in our county correctional system, commit to sharing lessons
5 learned with other counties in my state and across the country to support a national initiative and
6 encourage all county officials, employees and residents to participate in *Stepping Up*. We
7 resolve to utilize the comprehensive resources available through *Stepping Up* to:

- 8 1. Convene or draw on a diverse team of leaders and decision makers from multiple
9 agencies committed to safely reducing the number of people with mental illnesses in the
10 correctional system.
- 11 2. Collect and review prevalence numbers and assess individuals' needs to better identify
12 adults entering the correctional system with mental illnesses and their recidivism risk,
13 and use that baseline information to guide decision making at the system, program, and
14 case levels.
- 15 3. Examine treatment and service capacity to determine which programs and services are
16 available in the county for people with mental illnesses and co-occurring substance use
17 disorders, and identify state and local policy and funding barriers to minimizing contact
18 with the justice system and providing treatment and supports in the community.
- 19 4. Develop a plan with measurable outcomes that draws on the correctional system
20 assessment and prevalence data and the examination of available treatment and service
21 capacity, while considering identified barriers.
- 22 5. Implement research-based approaches that advance the plan.
- 23 6. Create a process to track progress using data and information systems, and to report on
24 successes.

Adopted this 16th day of June, 2015.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE
GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

BY: _____
Mel Franklin
Chairman

ATTEST:

Redis C. Floyd
Clerk of the Council