Resolution urging the City and County of San Francisco to join the Stepping Up Initiative, to reduce the number of people with mental illnesses in jails.

WHEREAS, Counties routinely provide treatment services to 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 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, The City and County of San Francisco 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, The City and County of San Francisco has had a long collaboration with the San Francisco Superior Court system to deliver high quality collaborative justice programs that address addiction, mental health, and other social service needs, including Behavioral Health Court, which works with individuals who have serious and persistent mental illness in...
their efforts toward community re-integration and greater self-sufficiency, Community Justice Center, which bridges the gap between communities and the Court and addresses issues that have led to a participant’s criminal justice involvement through the use of restorative justice and treatment services for substance use, mental health, and other primary health issues, and Drug Court, which links non-violent offenders who have substance use disorders to outpatient and/or residential treatment intended to support a life free from substance use; and

WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco is currently working towards implementation of the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) Program, based upon the Seattle/King County model, which is a pre-booking program to divert low-level drug offenses from jail into treatment; and

WHEREAS, Between 7-14% of the San Francisco County jail population, which was 13,544 in 2015, has serious mental illness; and

WHEREAS, Approximately 20% of the San Francisco Department of Public Health’s 25,000 behavioral health system clients report having some history of criminal justice contact; and

WHEREAS, There are currently approximately a total of 1,900 behavioral health beds available in San Francisco, representing a mix of residential, hospital, and locked facilities and San Francisco Department of Public Health is exploring opportunities for an additional 102 beds, including 15 beds at Hummingbird Place at the Behavioral Health Center located on the Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital (ZSFG) campus, 40 locked psychiatric beds in San Francisco, and 47 dual diagnosis treatment beds at the Behavioral Health Center located on the ZSFG campus; 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, The San Francisco Board of Supervisors 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 California and across the country to support a national initiative and encourage all county officials, employees, and residents to participate in Stepping Up; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, The City and County of San Francisco will utilize the comprehensive resources available through Stepping Up to convene or draw on a diverse team of leaders and decision makers from multiple agencies committed to safely reducing the number of people with mental illnesses in jails, collect and review prevalence numbers and assess individuals' needs to better identify adults entering jails with mental illnesses and their recidivism risk, and use that baseline information to guide decision making at the system, program, and case levels, examine treatment and service capacity to determine which programs and services are available in the county for people with mental illnesses and co-occurring substance use disorders, and identify state and local policy and funding barriers to minimizing contact with the justice system and providing treatment and supports in the community, develop a plan with measurable outcomes that draws on the jail assessment and prevalence data and the examination of available treatment and service capacity, while considering identified barriers, implement research-based approaches that advance the plan, and create a process to track progress using data and information systems, and to report on successes.
Resolution urging the City and County of San Francisco to join the Stepping Up Initiative, to reduce the number of people with mental illnesses in jails.

January 24, 2017 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED
Ayes: 11 - Breed, Cohen, Farrell, Fewer, Kim, Peskin, Ronen, Safai, Sheehy, Tang and Yee

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on 1/24/2017 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution, not being signed by the Mayor within the time limit as set forth in Section 3.103 of the Charter, or time waived pursuant to Board Rule 2.14.2, became effective without his approval in accordance with the provision of said Section 3.103 of the Charter or Board Rule 2.14.2.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

Date