

1 [Urging the City and County to Join the Stepping Up Initiative]

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

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6 WHEREAS, Counties routinely provide treatment services to the estimated 2 million
7 people with serious mental illnesses booked into jail each year; and

8 WHEREAS, Prevalence rates of serious mental illnesses in jails are three to six times
9 higher than for the general public; and

10 WHEREAS, Almost three-quarters of adults with serious mental illnesses in jails have
11 co-occurring substance use disorders; and

12 WHEREAS, Adults with mental illnesses tend to stay longer in jail and, upon release,
13 are at a higher risk of recidivism than people without these disorders; and

14 WHEREAS, County jails spend two to three times more on adults with mental illnesses
15 that require interventions compared to those without these treatment needs; and

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

19 WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco takes pride in their responsibility to
20 protect and enhance the health, welfare, and safety of its residents in efficient and cost-
21 effective ways; and

22 WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco has had a long collaboration with
23 the San Francisco Superior Court system to deliver high quality collaborative justice programs
24 that address addiction, mental health, and other social service needs, including Behavioral
25 Health Court, which works with individuals who have serious and persistent mental illness in

1 their efforts toward community re-integration and greater self-sufficiency, Community Justice
2 Center, which bridges the gap between communities and the Court and addresses issues that
3 have led to a participant's criminal justice involvement through the use of restorative justice
4 and treatment services for substance use, mental health, and other primary health issues, and
5 Drug Court, which links non-violent offenders who have substance use disorders to outpatient
6 and/or residential treatment intended to support a life free from substance use; and

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

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

13 WHEREAS, Approximately 20% of the San Francisco Department of Public Health's
14 25,000 behavioral health system clients report having some history of criminal justice contact;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, There are currently approximately a total of 1,900 behavioral health beds
17 available in San Francisco, representing a mix of residential, hospital, and locked facilities and
18 San Francisco Department of Public Health is exploring opportunities for an additional 102
19 beds, including 15 beds at Hummingbird Place at the Behavioral Health Center located on the
20 Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital (ZSFG) campus, 40 locked psychiatric beds in
21 San Francisco, and 47 dual diagnosis treatment beds at the Behavioral Health Center located
22 on the ZSFG campus; and

23 WHEREAS, Through Stepping Up, the National Association of Counties, The Council
24 of State Governments Justice Center, and the American Psychiatric Association Foundation

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1 are encouraging public, private, and nonprofit partners to reduce the number of people with
2 mental illnesses in jails; now, therefore, be it

3 RESOLVED, The San Francisco Board of Supervisors does hereby sign on to the Call
4 to Action to reduce the number of people with mental illnesses in our county jail, commit to
5 sharing lessons learned with other counties in California and across the country to support a
6 national initiative and encourage all county officials, employees, and residents to participate in
7 Stepping Up; and, be it

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

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