

RESOLUTION NO. 2015-28

A RESOLUTION OF THE COCONINO COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS SUPPORTING THE STEPPING UP INITIATIVE
WHICH AIMS TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WITH MENTAL ILLNESS
IN JAILS.

WHEREAS, counties routinely provide treatment services to the estimated 2 million people across the country 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 population; 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, Coconino County 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, Coconino County, in partnership with the Northern Arizona Regional Behavioral Health Authority have developed community specific programs which help people stay out of jail by offering mental health and substance use disorder treatment; and

WHEREAS, through the Stepping Up initiative, the National Association of Counties, the Council of State Governments Justice Center and the American Psychiatric Foundation, Coconino County is encouraging public, private and nonprofit partners to reduce the number of people with mental illnesses in jails;

NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED, THAT Coconino County 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 the state and across the country to support a national initiative and encourage all county officials, employees and residents to participate in Stepping Up.

COCONINO COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Mandy Metzger, Chair

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM

Clerk of the Board

By: _____
Deputy County Attorney