

Resolution
Fort Bend County Commissioners Court
Stepping Up to Reduce the Number of People with Mental Illnesses in Jail

- WHEREAS* counties across the nation routinely provide treatment services to the estimated 2 million people with serious mental illnesses booked into county jails 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 cost tax payers two to three times more during their incarceration and, upon release, are at a higher risk of recidivism than people without these disorders, 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* Fort Bend County participates in various programs in our justice system to divert and/or provide services to residents with serious mental illnesses, 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, LET IT BE RESOLVED, THAT FORT BEND COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT, does hereby encourage all counties to identify, develop and enhance programs that provide measurable outcomes that will ultimately reduce the number of people with mental illnesses in our county jail. We are committed to sharing lessons learned with other counties in Texas and across the country to support a national initiative and encourage all county officials, employees, and residents to develop and participate in programs for the benefit of these individuals.

PASSED AND APPROVED this the ____ day of _____, 2018.

FORT BEND COUNTY

Robert E. Hebert, County Judge

ATTEST:

Laura Richard, County Clerk