



RESOLUTION No. _____

OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF NEVADA

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING DESIGNATION OF NEVADA COUNTY AS A STEPPING UP INNOVATOR COUNTY

WHEREAS, in May of 2015, The Council of State Governments (CSG) Justice Center, the National Association of Counties (NACo), and the American Psychiatric Association Foundation (APA Foundation) partnered to create Stepping Up with the purpose of rallying local, state, and national leaders to achieve a measurable reduction in the number of people in jail who have serious mental illnesses (SMI); and

WHEREAS, in December of 2016, the Nevada County Board of Supervisors adopted resolution 16-586, supporting Nevada County's participation in the Stepping Up Initiative, thereby advancing the initiative's core goals of building a local leadership team, working to identify the number of people with mental illnesses entering the jail system, ensuring that those people are connected with services, and developing a comprehensive plan that will lead to an actual reduction in the number of people with mental illnesses in the jail; and

WHEREAS, in the years since the resolution was adopted, a collaborative group of county departments, including the Sheriff's Office, Probation, Public Defender, District Attorney, and Behavioral Health, has been meeting regularly and has implemented numerous system changes and improvements to better link people with SMI to treatment services instead of incarceration; and

WHEREAS, for the past several years, our local Stepping Up group has worked with an outside consultant to refine and better analyze our local data. These conversations have deepened our understanding of who is being booked into jail and what their needs are. As a result of having this data and a comprehensive understanding of it, we have been well positioned to apply for and receive numerous grants that we are using to continue to improve services; and

WHEREAS, guidelines for becoming a Stepping Up Innovator County include using a shared definition of serious mental illness across Justice and Behavioral Health Systems, screening every person booked into the jail using a validated screening tool and referring those who screen positive for a full clinical assessment, and tracking and analyzing data electronically.

WHEREAS, national Stepping Up leadership has reviewed and approved recognition of Nevada County as a Stepping Up Innovator County; and

WHEREAS, being recognized as an Innovator County is not a financial award but it is a recognition of the hard work county departments and community partners have done to address this critical issue. As an Innovator County, Nevada County will participate in training sessions with other counties to teach them about what we are doing and how they can improve their own data collection efforts, take part in presentations, and share our experiences through the Stepping Up web site, among other things;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the County of Nevada Board of Supervisors, do hereby accept designation as a Stepping Up Innovator County.