

**CERTIFIED COPY OF RESOLUTION OF THE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COUNTY BOARD OF
AITKIN COUNTY, MINNESOTA**

ADOPTED April 23, 2019

By Commissioner: xx

20190423-001

Mental Health

Affirming Aitkin County's Support of Region V+ Adult Mental Health Initiatives Comprehensive Re-entry Program to Reduce the Number of People with Mental Illnesses in Jails

WHEREAS, The Aitkin County Board continues to see the impacts of ongoing reductions in state and federal funding for serious mental illness in our community and the resulting increased rates of serious mental illness in child protection cases and in incarcerations in the county jail at rates three to six times higher than the general population; and

WHEREAS, The net effect of these changes is the increasing criminalization of serious mental illness, which reflects an actual change from one kind of institutionally-based care for serious mental illness in which appropriate psychiatric treatment and programming elements were provided in a residential setting to an institutionalized residential setting that is ill-equipped to do the same, which we believe to be a worse system than what we had with the state hospitals; 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, Region V+ Adult Mental Health Initiative (Cass, Crow Wing, Morrison, Todd, Aitkin and Wadena Counties) takes pride in its responsibility to protect and enhance the health, welfare, and safety of its residents in efficient and cost-effective ways; and

WHEREAS, Region V+ Adult Mental Health Initiative has launched a regional Comprehensive Re-Entry Program in partnership with other key stakeholders that will safely reduce the number of adults with mental illnesses in jails by connecting them to community-based treatment and services.

NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED, THAT AITKIN COUNTY, does hereby sign on to the continued development of our Comprehensive Re-Entry Program as a regional project of the Adult Mental Health Initiative to reduce the number of people with mental illnesses in our county jails. We resolve to:

- Apply for funding through the National Joint Powers Alliance to begin our regional efforts around safely reducing the number of people with mental illnesses in jails; and
- 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; and
- 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; and
- 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; and

- Create a process to track progress using data and information systems, and to report on barriers and successes.

Commissioner xx moved the adoption of the resolution and it was declared adopted upon the following vote

FIVE MEMBERS PRESENT

All Members Voting Yes

**STATE OF MINNESOTA}
COUNTY OF AITKIN}**

I, Cynthia Bennett, Health & Human Services Director, Aitkin County, Minnesota do hereby certify that I have compared the foregoing with the original resolution filed in the H&HS Administrative Assistant's Office of Aitkin County in Aitkin, Minnesota as stated in the minutes of the proceedings of said Board on the 23rd day of April 2019, and that the same is a true and correct copy of the whole thereof.

Witness my hand this 23rd day of April 2019

Cynthia Bennett
Director, Aitkin County Health & Human Services