

Office of the County Commission

PROCLAMATION

STEPPING UP MONTH OF ACTION

MAY 2019

“Stepping Up Initiative to Reduce the Number of People with Mental Illnesses in Jails”

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

WHEREAS, Douglas County and all counties take pride in their responsibility to protect and enhance the health, welfare and safety of their residents in efficient and cost-effective ways; and

WHEREAS, the National Association of Counties, The Council of State Governments Justice Center and the American Psychiatric Association Foundation started Stepping Up: A National Initiative to Reduce the Number of People with Mental Illnesses in Jails to encourage public, private and nonprofit partners to create data-driven, systems-level plans to reduce mental illness in their jail and improve outcomes for people with mental illnesses in their communities;

WHEREAS, Douglas County joined Stepping Up on the 28th day of October 2015 to show its commitment to working on this issue locally; and

WHEREAS, Douglas County has been recognized as one of 11 National Innovator Counties for initiatives and data collection to reduce the number of people with mental illness in jails; and

WHEREAS, Douglas County has made significant progress by reducing the number of people in jail with mental illness by 56 percent since making the commitment to join the Stepping Up Initiative; and

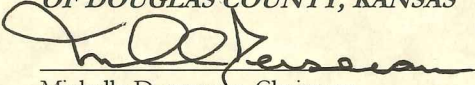
WHEREAS, Stepping Up is hosting a Month of Action for May 2019, to encourage counties to hold an event, participate in local activities and engage with traditional and social media to share with constituents the progress they have made in addressing the prevalence of people with mental illnesses in their jails, raise public awareness and understanding of this important issue and emphasize their commitment to having an impact; and

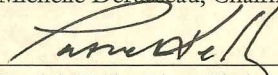
WHEREAS, Douglas County will convene a Community Recognition event on May 14 to recognize the community collaboration and substantial progress toward reducing the number of people in jail with mental illness.

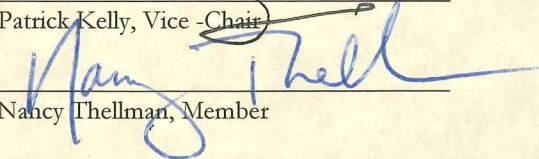
NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED, THAT The Board of County Commissioners, do hereby proclaim May 2019 as **Douglas County's Stepping Up Month of Action** and encourage all county officials, employees and residents to participate in or host associated activities or events.

ADOPTED this 8th day of May, 2019.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF DOUGLAS COUNTY, KANSAS**


Michelle Derusseau, Chairman


Patrick Kelly, Vice -Chair


Nancy Thellman, Member