



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF COOK COUNTY
Cook County Building, Board Room, 118 North Clark Street, Chicago, Illinois

Second New Items Agenda

for the

Meeting of the Board of Commissioners

Wednesday, May 20, 2015, 11:00 AM

15-3429

Sponsored by: GREGG GOSLIN, County Commissioner

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING NACO'S "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, 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, Cook County and all counties take pride in their responsibility to protect and enhance the health, welfare and safety of its residents in efficient and cost-effective ways; and

WHEREAS, Cook County has successfully reduced its total jail population by 20% since 2013; and

WHEREAS, Cook County's 'County Care' program has expanded behavioral health services in communities throughout Cook County, and stakeholders have joined in an effort to enroll jail detainees in 'County Care' before they are released; and

WHEREAS, every Cook County Jail detainee with mental health needs is interviewed by a social worker, before discharge from the jail, in order to arrange for appropriate community-based transitional services such as medical appointments, counseling, behavioral health services and supportive housing; and

WHEREAS, through the Stepping Up initiative, the National Association of Counties, the Council of State Governments Justice Center and the American Psychiatric 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 the President and the Cook County Board of Commissioners, do 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 state of Illinois and across the country to support a national initiative and encourage all county officials, employees and residents to participate in Stepping Up. We further resolve to:

- Continue to convene or draw on a diverse team of leaders and decision makers from multiple agencies committed to safely reducing the number of people with mental illnesses in jails.
- Continue to collect relevant data and use it as baseline information to guide decision making.
- Continue to work with all stakeholders to examine treatment and service capabilities in order to determine which programs and services are available to people with mental illnesses and co-occurring substance use disorders. As well as identifying state and local policy and funding community.
- Implement research-based approaches that advance our goal of reducing the jail population and the number of mentally ill jail detainees.
- Continue to create processes to track progress using data and information systems, and to report on successes.

15-3433

Sponsored by: STANLEY MOORE, County Commissioner

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

URGING THE ILLINOIS GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO CREATE LEGISLATION, AND THE GOVERNOR TO APPROVE FUNDING SUPPORT FOR THE 2020 DECENNIAL CENSUS, INCLUDING POSSIBLE METHODS AND PROCEDURES TESTS IN COOK COUNTY DURING THE NEXT THREE YEARS THAT WILL LEAD TO IMPROVED OPERATIONAL AND PROMOTIONAL APPROACHES TO EDUCATE, INFORM, AND ENCOURAGE THE COOPERATION OF COOK COUNTY RESIDENTS, AND ULTIMATELY ALL ILLINOIS RESIDENTS TO COMPLETE THEIR CENSUS QUESTIONNAIRE AND RETURN IT TO THE CENSUS BUREAU BY CENSUS DAY, APRIL 1, 2020.

WHEREAS, the U.S. Constitution, Article 1, Section 2, requires an enumeration of the population every ten years to apportion congressional representation among the states, and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 141 of Title 13 of the United States Code, the next federal decennial census of the population will be taken on the first day of April, 2020, and

WHEREAS, a complete and accurate count of Cook County and Illinois population is essential to the County and the State, because the census count determines congressional representation, state

redistricting, federal formula grant allocations and the distribution of state subvention funds for an entire decade until the next decennial census is taken, and

WHEREAS, the number of Illinois representatives serving in the House of Representatives, and locally elected officials serving in the State General Assembly, county and local elective positions, are determined by the complete enumeration of the state population, and

WHEREAS, since the 1960 Census, the State of Illinois has lost a total of 6 seats in the House of Representatives, losing seats in each of the past 5 decades, and

WHEREAS, a complete and accurate census count ensures that the particular priorities of Cook County and Illinois are properly represented at all federal, state, and local levels, and

WHEREAS, the census count of Illinois resident population and detailed household information from the American Community Survey (ACS) determines the state's portion of more than 400 billion dollars of Federal funds to the 50 states each year on more than 140 Federal programs, and

WHEREAS, there are several federal programs benefiting Cook County, and Illinois that use census enumerations and population numbers as part of their funding formulas, including formulas for education, health, transportation, and human services programs, and

WHEREAS, while the U.S. Census Bureau will endeavor to count every person in the nation, many states, as they have done in the past, will allocate state funds to carry out a multi-cultural, multi-lingual, multi-media outreach campaign to increase individual state mail-back response rates, and encourage the involvement of every resident, and

WHEREAS, in the 2000 and 2010 Censuses, Cook County organized a strong and effective Census Complete Count Committee to focus the County's elected officials, faith organizations, and a wide range of business and community leadership in promotion and support of an accurate and complete count of its population, and

WHEREAS, over the next three years the Census Bureau will conduct local tests, including potential operations tests in Cook County in 2016, of new concepts, methods, and procedures for improving public cooperation for possible use in the next census in 2020, and

WHEREAS, it is vitally important for Cook County, and Illinois to do everything it can to ensure that every Illinois resident is counted in the upcoming census;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners does hereby urge the Illinois General Assembly to pass legislation to become effective immediately:

1. Authorizing the appropriate funds necessary to carry out a broad, state-wide multi-cultural, multi-lingual, multi-media outreach campaign to educate, inform, and encourage the cooperation of every Illinois resident with the 2020 Census, including the authorization of immediate funding to support

Census Bureau conduct of potential testing activities in Cook County during 2016, 2017, and 2018;

2. To authorize the Governor to establish a statewide Complete Count Committee, appointing members, as he deems necessary who shall serve without compensation and at the pleasure of the Governor;
3. To ensure that the Committee begin its work immediately, to develop, recommend, and assist in the administration of a census outreach strategy, to participate fully with all preliminary testing conducted within the state in 2016, 2017, and 2018, of new and different methods and procedures for encouraging public cooperation for use in the 2020 federal decennial census of population required by Section 141 of Title 13 of the United States Code.
4. The census outreach strategy shall include, but not be limited to, State agency initiatives to encourage participation in the 2020 Census, the establishment and support of school-based outreach programs, partnerships with non-profit community-based organizations, and a multi-lingual, multi-media campaign designed to ensure an accurate and complete count of Illinois population.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a suitable copy of the Resolution be tendered to the Speaker of the Illinois House of Representatives and the President of the Illinois Senate.