



INVITATION TO JOIN THE STEPPING UP INITIATIVE PLANNING TEAM

What is the Stepping Up Initiative?

National Call to Counties for Action

- ◆ As of January 19, 2016 213 counties nationwide have passed Stepping Up Initiative Resolutions
- ◆ NC - 23 counties that have passed Stepping Up Initiative resolutions
- ◆ Forsyth County responded with a resolution in April of 2015

Goal: To Safely Reduce the Number of People with Mental Illnesses in Jails.

To learn more about the national Stepping Up Project visit:

<http://www.naco.org/resources/programs-and-initiatives/stepping-initiative>

Why do we need a planning team? Why should I join?

As part of the the Forsyth County's Stepping Up Initiative we have a goal to *create a coalition of diverse team of leaders and decision makers from multiple agencies committed to safely reducing the number of people with mental illnesses in jails.* We need your expertise and best thinking on action(s) (immediate, short-term, or long-term) Forsyth County can take the necessary steps to safely reducing the number of people with mental illness in our County jail.

What is my role as a planning team member?

As a planning team member you will:

- Review and add to a community Sequential Intercept Map (depicting the processes and resources that address persons in jail with mental health issues).
- Help to decide on the definitions of mental illness and the specific offender/potential offender populations that we should focus efforts on in Forsyth County.
- Review national, state and local potential solutions.
- Recommend to the Stepping Up Steering Committee the action steps that Forsyth County should take to safely reduce the number of persons with mental illness in the local jail.

What is the time commitment?

The Planning Team will meet three times in the spring of 2016. Each of the meetings will be an interactive/working meeting.

- **February 5, 2016/** 8:30 am to 11:00am/Forsyth County Government Center (Room TBD)
- **March 4, 2016/** 8:30 am to 11:00am/Forsyth County Government Center (Room TBD)
- **April 1, 2016/** 8:30 am to 11:00am/Forsyth County Government Center (Room TBD)

Who should I contact to RSVP or if I have questions?

Doris Paez, Ph.D., Data & Research Director

Stepping Up Project: Forsyth County, NC/Forsyth County Manager's Office

email: paezd2@forsyth.cc OR telephone: (336) 703-2027