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1 WHEREAS, among recommended priorities, the report includes the need
2 for: crisis services and jail/hospital alternatives; integrated services for
3 persons with multiple or co-occurring needs, especially those with mental
4 illness and substance abuse; transition services for adults with behavioral
5 health needs who are leaving prisons and jails; assertive community treatment
6 and/or intensive case management or community support services for adults
7 with serious mental illness; and housing for adults to establish and maintain
8 stability in the community; and

9 WHEREAS, of all services utilized by persons with mental health needs,
10 especially emergency services, 10-15 % of this group (that is, the most
11 seriously mentally ill) use approximately 70% of services; and

12 WHEREAS, high utilization of expensive emergency services such as
13 hospital emergency rooms, police and ambulance calls, by high-needs
14 severely mentally ill individuals means less availability of these services to
15 many more individuals in the community; and

16 WHEREAS, identifying and providing high-needs, seriously mentally ill
17 individuals with housing and case management decreased emergency service
18 utilization in Albuquerque by 31% according to the Albuquerque Housing
19 Home Cost Study in 2013; and

20 WHEREAS, a 2006 Bureau of Justice Statistics report estimated that 64% of
21 jail inmates had a mental health problem based on clinical interviews of the
22 inmate populations; and

23 WHEREAS, in March of 2014, MDC had a total of 969 individuals on the
24 Psych Services Unit caseload at MDC; this is 52% of the MDC population; and

25 WHEREAS, mental illness among inmates is associated with higher
26 incidences of homelessness as researchers generally estimate that 25-50% of
27 the homeless population has a history of incarceration; and

28 WHEREAS, a lack of safe and stable housing alternatives for mentally ill
29 persons coming out of jail contributes to the risk of health decompensation,
30 criminal activity and recidivism; and

31 WHEREAS, in 2004 a report by the Arizona State University Applied
32 Behavioral Health Policy group found that according to estimates from the
33 National Survey on Drug Abuse found that New Mexico had the largest

1 treatment gap of any state with 3.5% of the population needing drug treatment
2 services but not receiving treatment; and

3 WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of the State of New Mexico, the City of
4 Albuquerque, and Bernalillo County to work together to offer resources to
5 better provide options and solutions both for our law enforcement and those
6 with a mental illness.

7 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL, THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF
8 ALBUQUERQUE:

9 That the City of Albuquerque calls for unanimous support and action at the
10 State of New Mexico, City of Albuquerque, and Bernalillo County levels to
11 address the mental illness crisis within our great State by formulating a task
12 force that will seek funding from these entities and will work towards service
13 strategies that will benefit our entire community.

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