



National Association for Court Management

Resolution # _____2_____ Year _____2016_____

- In Support of Reforms to Effectively Address the Needs of Persons with Mental Illness Who Come into Contact with the Court System -

WHEREAS, mental illness is a far-reaching problem with enormous impact on the judicial system;
and

WHEREAS, the National Association for Court Management recognizes that persons with untreated mental illness can cause a never-ending cycle of court interventions; and

WHEREAS, the National Association for Court Management also recognizes that the disproportionate number of people with mental illness in the criminal justice system is one of the most pressing problems facing law enforcement, courts, and corrections; and

WHEREAS, a collaborative and coordinated effort among the courts, executive agencies, communities, and mental health and substance abuse providers is required to effectively address the problems; and

WHEREAS, over the years courts have developed problem-solving courts and defined best practices for these courts; and

WHEREAS, in 2015, the Conference of States Court Administrators (COSCA) published a position paper, Problem-Solving Courts in the 21st Century, which includes recommendations for implementing current best practices; and

WHEREAS, Congress is considering a number of legislative proposals that seek to more effectively address the needs of persons with mental illness; and

WHEREAS, some of the legislative proposals have provisions that would:

- Reauthorize the Mentally Ill Offender Treatment and Crime Reduction Act (MIOTCRA) of 2004 (Public Law 108-414), which seeks to address these problems by creating a system of planning and implementation grants for communities to improve coordination between criminal justice and mental health systems; and
- Reauthorize funding for Veterans Treatment Courts, which involve collaborations among the criminal justice system, veterans organizations, and mental health and substance abuse agencies; and
- Reauthorize funding for jail diversion programs administered by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration; and
- Provide for training grants to improve the response to mentally ill offenders; and
- Encourage and give funding priority to multi-disciplinary collaboration reform efforts;

APPROVED BY VOTE OF THE NACM BOARD ON

_____12/6/16_____



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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National Association for Court Management urges Congress to approve these legislative proposals; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the National Association for Court Management urges the United States Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to adopt, as applicable, the best practices outlined in the 2015 Conference of State Court Administrators position paper as federal policy and regulations are developed; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the National Association for Court Management urges Congress and DOJ and SAMHSA to provide adequate funding to state courts to: (1) provide training for judges and court personnel so that they understand and can more effectively address the needs of persons with mental illness; (2) further develop resources and best court practices; and (3) fully implement these resources and best practices.

APPROVED BY VOTE OF THE NACM BOARD ON
_____12/6/16_____