

TUSCOLA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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At a regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the County of Tuscola, State of Michigan, held on February 12, 2026, with the meeting called to order at 8:00 a.m.

PRESENT: *Nancy Barrios, Kim Vaughan, Bill Rutzy*

ABSENT: *Thomas Bardurel, Matt Koch*

The following resolution was offered by *Commissioner Barrios* and
seconded by *Commissioner Rutzy*:

RESOLUTION 2026-02 Stepping Up Initiative Resolution

“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, Tuscola 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, through *Stepping Up*, the National Association of Counties, the Council of State Governments Justice Center and the Americal Psychiatric Association 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, THAT Tuscola County Board of Commissioners do hereby sign on 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 the state and across the country to support a national initiative and encourage all county officials, employees and residents to participate in *Stepping Up* . We resolve to utilize the comprehensive resources available through *Stepping Up* to:

- Collect and review prevalence numbers and assess individuals’ needs to better identify adults entering jails with mental illnesses and their recidivism risk and use that baseline information to guide decision making at the system, program, and case levels.
- Examine treatment and service capacity to determine which programs and services are available in the county for people with mental illnesses and co-occurring substance use disorders and identify state and local policy and funding barriers to minimizing contact with the justice system and providing treatment and support in the community.
- Develop a plan with measurable outcomes that draws on the jail assessment and prevalence data and the examination of available treatment and service capacity, while considering identified barriers.
- Implement research-based approaches that advance the plan.
- Create a process to track progress using data and information systems and report on successes.

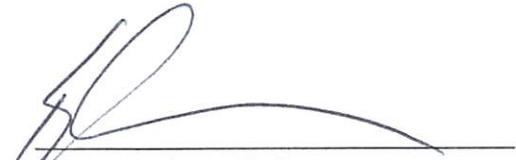
RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED on this 12th day of February, 2026.

ADOPTED: Yeas: *Barries, Sultz, Vaughan*

Nays: *None*

Absent: *Bardwell, Koch*

Date February 12, 2026



Kim Vaughan, Chairperson
Tuscola County Board of Commissioners

STATE OF MICHIGAN)

) SS

COUNTY OF TUSCOLA)

I, the undersigned, the duly qualified and acting County Clerk of the County of Tuscola, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted by a majority vote of the members elect of the Tuscola County Board of Commissioners at a regular meeting of said Board of Commissioners held on February 12, 2026 the original of which is on file in my office.

I further certify that notice of the meeting was given in accordance with the Open Meetings Act.



Jodi Fetting
County Clerk, MCCO
County of Tuscola