

**RESOLUTION NO. 2022-007**

**A RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE REPORT “MISSOULA COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SYSTEM: CHARTING A PATH FORWARD” AS A GUIDING DOCUMENT**

**WHEREAS**, behavioral health, which includes mental illness, other mental health concerns, substance use and substance-use disorder, is as important as physical health for a person’s overall well-being; and

**WHEREAS**, untreated behavioral health issues increase the risk of diseases such as diabetes, heart disease and stroke, and increase the risk of incarceration, homelessness, social isolation, victimization and trauma, suicide, overdose and unemployment; and,

**WHEREAS**, the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated behavioral health conditions in the U.S., with three in 10 adults reporting symptoms of anxiety or depression, compared with one in 10 adults prior to the pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, Missoula residents listed mental health as one of the top three issues of concern in the annual City Residents of Missoula survey conducted in April 2021; and

**WHEREAS**, in the past five years Missoula agencies and task forces have issued at least nine needs assessment reports that focus on behavioral health needs; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Missoula County mental health coordinator compiled the recommendations from the nine reports at the request of the Strategic Alliance for Improved Behavioral Health and identified specific action steps to improve the system of care including prevention, early intervention and crisis care; and,

**WHEREAS**, the report titled “Missoula County Behavioral Health System: Charting a Path Forward” encompasses these recommendations and action steps; and

**WHEREAS**, the Strategic Alliance for Improved Behavioral Health will be responsible for reporting to the Missoula Board of County Commissioners and the City of Missoula on the progress and challenges of achieving the objectives outlined in the report.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that we, the Missoula Board of County Commissioners, adopt “Missoula County Behavioral Health System: Charting a Path Forward” as a guiding document when appropriating Missoula County resources toward addressing needs in the behavioral health care system.

**DATED THIS 24<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF MARCH, 2022**

ATTEST:

*Tyler Gernant*  
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Tyler R. Gernant, Clerk & Treasurer

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
MISSOULA COUNTY, MONTANA

*Juanita Vero*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Juanita Vero, Chair

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David Strohmaier, Commissioner

*Josh Slotnick*  
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Josh Slotnick, Commissioner

