



RESOLUTION R-048-23

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF WALKER COUNTY TO URGE THE GOVERNOR AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA TO CONTINUE EFFORTS TO REFORM AND IMPROVE MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE CITIZENS OF GEORGIA

WHEREAS, being the constitutional level of government closest to their constituents, Georgia counties are on the front lines of responding to mental health issues within the community, as well as the development of mental health reform efforts; and

WHEREAS, the Walker County Board of Commissioners ("Board") supports efforts designed to provide every citizen in need to have accessible, affordable, and adequate mental health services; and

WHEREAS, the Board is grateful for the efforts of Georgia's executive, legislative, and judicial branches in working toward mental health reform in recent years, such as the passage of HB 1013 (2022) and introduction of HB 520 (2023), Chief Justice Boggs' work on jail diversion initiatives, and Governor Kemp's commitment to expanding mental health resources in schools for children and young adults; and

WHEREAS, despite these prior steps and successes, the Board recognizes there is still a tremendous amount of work for the citizens of Walker County and other citizens across the state to receive adequate healthcare for mental health and substance abuse disorders; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board that Walker County government reaffirms its commitment to reforming and improving mental health services for its citizens and all citizens of the state of Georgia;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board specifically urges the Governor and General Assembly to continue efforts in the 2024 Session of the Georgia General Assembly to enhance access to vital mental health services, including the provision of state budgetary funding for additional behavioral health crisis centers across the state, additional co-responder units, and other resources to assist those with mental health and substance abuse disorders;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk to the Board is hereby directed to provide an executed copy of this Resolution to each member of the Walker County delegation to the Georgia Senate and Georgia House of Representatives and to the Association County Commissioners of Georgia.

SO RESOLVED AND ADOPTED this 9th day of November, 2023.

[Signatures on Page 2]

ATTEST:

WALKER COUNTY, GEORGIA

Whitney Summey

Whitney Summey, Deputy Clerk



Shannon K. Whitfield

SHANNON K. WHITFIELD, Chairman

The foregoing Resolution received a motion for Approval from Commissioner Stultz, second by Commissioner Askew, and upon the question the vote is 4 ayes, 0 nays to adopt the Resolution.