

RESOLUTION NO. R-17-25

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE QUORUM COURT OF GARLAND COUNTY,
STATE OF ARKANSAS, A RESOLUTION TO BE ENTITLED:**

“A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE COUNTY JUDGES’ ASSOCIATION OF ARKANSAS TO FURTHER ADVANCE THEIR LEADERSHIP ROLE AND AFFIRMATIVE EFFORT TO PURSUE ALL AVAILABLE WAYS AND MEANS TO ADDRESS THIS UNPRECEDENTED CRISIS; THE SUBSTANTIAL AND RISING INCIDENCE OF HEROIN AND OPIOID ADDICTION IN ARKANSAS.”

Whereas, there’s a national health emergency concerning overdoses of opioids; 64,000 Americans died from overdoses in 2016, and on average that’s 175 deaths in the United States per day;

Whereas, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in 2016 Arkansas ranked second in the nation behind Alabama in the rate of opioids prescribed, 114.6 per 100 residents; the rate in Arkansas is substantially higher than the national rate of 66.5 per hundred;

Whereas, on October 10, 2017, the Association of Arkansas Counties (“AAC”) formed an Opioid Task Force to address the substantial and rising incidence of heroin and opioid addiction and fatal overdoses;

Whereas, the impact and costs are incredibly high to families, our society, local communities, and counties;

Whereas, Arkansas counties have incurred and will incur in the future substantial expenses and allocation of resources for the jail, law enforcement, the courts, and other county services and operations;

Whereas, on October 26, 2017, the President of the United States declared the opioid crisis to be a public health emergency;

Whereas, Amendment 55 of the Arkansas Constitution provides that counties may contract, cooperate or join with other counties for public purposes;

Whereas, the County Judges’ Association of Arkansas (CJAA) was formed to serve the purposes of cooperation and exchange among counties, to solve county problems, and to promote efficiencies in county government and in the office of county judge;

Whereas, the Association of Arkansas Counties (“AAC”) was recognized by the General Assembly pursuant to Act 92 of 1968, Ark. Code § 14-20-108, and other subsequent acts of Arkansas, as the official agency of the counties of the State of Arkansas and vested with the

continual mission to study ways and means to improve county government;


Whereas, the CJAA and AAC have recently taken an affirmative leadership role in calling for the creation, funding, and partnership in the creation of crisis stabilization units in Arkansas for the mentally ill and low-level offenders;


Whereas, the CJAA recognizes the unprecedented magnitude of the opioid crisis nationally and in Arkansas; the unprecedented responsibility of the CJAA and our member counties to pursue all available ways and means to address the crisis, the substantial and rising incidence of heroin and opioid addiction, the fatal overdoses; and to address the substantial adverse impacts and costs to our families, society, local communities and to our counties.

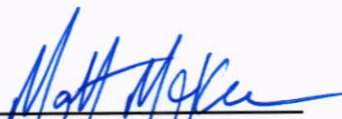
Whereas, this crisis is of this unprecedented magnitude and should best be addressed by virtue of cooperation and collective action by the CJAA and our member counties.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE QUORUM COURT OF GARLAND COUNTY, ARKANSAS:

Section 1. That the Garland County Quorum Court hereby endorses the County Judges' Association of Arkansas to further advance leadership roles and affirmative efforts to pursue all available ways and means to address this unprecedented crisis; the substantial and rising incidence of heroin and opioid addiction in Arkansas; the unprecedented fatal overdoses in Arkansas; the extraordinary level of adverse impacts and costs to our families, society, local communities, and to our counties; and to facilitate cooperation among counties in these public purposes, as provided for by Amendment 55 of the Arkansas Constitution, Ark. Code § 14-20-108 and the expressed missions of the CJAA and AAC.

Attest: 
Sarah Smith
Garland County Clerk

Approved: 
Rick Davis
Garland County Judge

Sponsor: 
Matt McKee
Justice of the Peace

Date: 12-11-2017