

**THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF THE COUNTY OF DOUGLAS, COLORADO**

**RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING MAY 2017 MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS  
MONTH.**

**WHEREAS**, during National Mental Health Awareness Month, we recognize those Americans who live with mental illness and substance use disorders, along with their families who need support as well; and

**WHEREAS**, the designation of May as Mental Health Awareness Month creates the opportunity to acknowledge the impact that mental illness has on our community as well as highlight our efforts to improve access to care and outcome for our citizens with mental illness; and

**WHEREAS**, approximately 1 in 5 adults in the U.S., or 18.5% - experiences mental illness in a given year with 1 in 25 adults experiencing serious mental illness that substantially interferes with major life activities such as employment; yet, only 41% of adults with mental illness received services in the past year; and

**WHEREAS**, approximately 1 in 5 youth aged 13-18, or 21.4% - experiences a serious mental disorder with just over half receiving mental health services in the previous year; and

**WHEREAS**, 21% of local jail prisoners have "a recent history" of a mental health condition; and

**WHEREAS**, serious mental illness costs America \$193.2 billion in lost earnings per year; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2014, in response to several tragic mental health related events in our community and out of concern that people in need of mental health services were falling through the cracks, the Board of County Commissioners formed the Douglas County Mental Health Initiative (MHI); and

**WHEREAS**, the mission of the 20+ member Initiative is to create better access to mental health services for underserved people in our county and coordinate more effectively as service providers to prevent gaps that can lead to poor mental health outcomes; and

**WHEREAS**, the vision is to ensure a seamless continuum from prevention to high intensity needs regarding mental health access and treatment for Douglas County residents, through community partnerships; and

**WHEREAS**, to demonstrate its commitment to this important community issue, the County hired a Mental Health Initiative Coordinator to facilitate strategies from prevention to high intensity responses; contracted for Mental Health Navigation in coordination with the County Attorney for those with the most serious mental illness or substance abuse issues and partnered with first responders and crisis counselors to direct people to effective mental health resources that fit their needs; and

**WHEREAS**, the MHI is coordinating with other Mental Health and Suicide and Substance Abuse Prevention programs for youth and adults in our community so as not to duplicate efforts but to support a continuum of needed services and improved access; and

**WHEREAS**, the MHI is collaborating on an Anti-Stigma Campaign in partnership with Tri-County Health and other counties to educate the community and send the message that there is "no wrong way" to talk about mental illness or help people get connected to resources that can address mental health needs; and

**WHEREAS**, people living with mental health conditions and their families need to know that they are not alone; that hope exists and that the possibility of healing is real; now therefore,

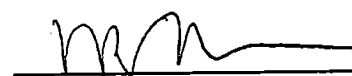
**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Douglas, Colorado, does proclaim May as Mental Health Awareness Month and urges all citizens to work to reduce the stigma associated with mental illness and support access to mental health care in our county.

**THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF THE COUNTY OF DOUGLAS, COLORADO**

BY:

  
ROGER A. PARTRIDGE, Chair

ATTEST:

  
EMILY WRENN, Deputy Clerk  
megan mccann

