

**R-020-036**

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

**RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING MAY, 2020 AS MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS  
MONTH.**

*Whereas* mental health is part of overall health; and

*Whereas* one in five adults experiences a mental health issue in any given year; and

*Whereas* approximately one-half of chronic mental illness begins by the age of 14 and three-quarters by age 24; and

*Whereas* suicide is the 10th leading cause of death in the United States, the 2nd leading cause among young adults nationally, and the number 1 cause of death among 15-24-year old's in Colorado; and 90% of people who die by suicide have an underlying mental health issue; and

*Whereas* long delays--sometimes decades--often occur between the time symptoms first appear and when individuals get help; and

*Whereas* the Douglas County Mental Health Initiative was established in 2014 by the Board of County Commissioners to address unmet mental health needs in our county, and is currently comprised of over 40 organizational members dedicated to improving mental health outcomes in Douglas County; and

*Whereas* the Douglas County Mental Health Initiative, in partnership with the County, local Law Enforcement and Fire/EMS, launched the Community Response Team Program in May 2017, and between May 2017 and August 2019 served 1,975 unique individuals, prevented 523 unnecessary trips to the emergency department for mental health crisis, prevented 192 jail bookings, served 545 people through case management, and resulted in an estimated \$4.38M in savings to Fire/EMS, Emergency Departments and Jail; and

*Whereas* the Community Response Team Program has expanded to four teams, now serving the entire county, including the new Youth Community Response Team; and

*Whereas* the Douglas County Mental Health Initiative is actively working on multiple strategies to create a Community-based Mental Health System including the development of a Care Compact for care coordination across multiple system, along with anti-stigma and public education efforts and using technology to increase awareness of resources and encourage mental health and substance abuse screening; and

*Whereas* the Douglas County Mental Health Initiative supports and encourages:

- Early identification and treatment, which can make a difference in successful management of mental illness and recovery; and
- Maintenance of positive mental health and learning the symptoms of mental illness in order to get help when it is needed; and

- Public education and civic activities, which can encourage mental health and help improve the lives of individuals and families affected by mental illness.

***BE IT RESOLVED***, that the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Douglas, Colorado do hereby proclaim May 1 through May 31, 2020 as Mental Health Awareness Month to shine a light on mental illness and fight stigma, provide support, educate the public and advocate for equal care.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED**, this 14th day of April 2020, in Castle Rock, Douglas County, Colorado.

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

**BY:**

DocuSigned by:

*Roger A. Partridge*

5289A118555C4E9

**ROGER A. PARTRIDGE, Chair**

**ATTEST:**

DocuSigned by:

*Emily Wrenn*

687D639B39BD4FE...

**EMILY WRENN, Clerk to the Board**

DS

