

Resolution No. R-021- 042

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

**RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING MAY, 2021 AS MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS
MONTH.**

WHEREAS, mental health is part of overall health; and

WHEREAS, mental health conditions are common in the United States with one in five U.S. adults and one in six U.S. youth ages 6-17 experiencing a mental health problem 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, long delays – on average 10 years, but sometimes decades– often occur between the time symptoms first appear and when individuals get help; and

WHEREAS, suicide ranks as the 10th leading cause of death in the United States, the 2nd leading cause among individuals between the ages of 10-34 nationally, the 7th leading cause of death in Colorado and the number 1 cause of death among individuals aged 10-24 years old in Colorado; and 69% of men and 31% of women who die by suicide have a known mental health condition; and

WHEREAS, the coronavirus and pandemic and mitigation efforts have greatly impacted mental health across the nation, with 40% of U.S. adults reporting symptoms of anxiety or depression at the beginning of 2021; and

WHEREAS, the Douglas County Mental Health Initiative was established in 2014, under the leadership of the Board of County Commissioners, to address mental health system gaps, and is currently represented by 40+ organizational members dedicated to improving health outcomes in Douglas County; and

WHEREAS, the Douglas County Mental Health Initiative launched the Community Response Team program in May 2017, and between May 2017 and December 2020 served 3,392 unique individuals, prevented 856 unnecessary trips to the emergency department for mental health crisis, prevented 331 jail bookings, served 1,039 people through its case management service, and saved an estimated \$6.46 million in Fire and Emergency Medical Services, Emergency Departments and Jail costs alone; and

WHEREAS, the Community Response Team has expanded to four teams, now serving the entire county, including the Youth Community Response Team; and

WHEREAS, the Douglas County Mental Health Initiative launched a new program in December 2020, The Care Compact, to provide care coordination for individuals with complex mental health, substance use, intellectual and developmental disabilities and safety net needs; and

WHEREAS, the Douglas County Mental Health Initiative is actively working on multiple strategies to improve the mental health network system of care, address the persistent stigma that surrounds mental health conditions and substance abuse through anti-stigma campaigns and public education opportunities, and develop technology solutions to increase awareness of resources in the community 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
- Maintenance of mental well-being and learning the symptoms of mental illness in order to get help when it is needed
- Engagement of every citizen and community in ending the silence and stigma that for too long has surrounded mental illness and discouraged people from getting help; 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, 2021 as Mental Health Awareness Month to shine a light on mental health conditions and fight stigma, provide support, educate the public and advocate for equal care.

PASSED AND ADOPTED, this 27th day of April 2021, in Castle Rock, Douglas County, Colorado.

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

BY:

DocuSigned by:



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ABE LAYDON, Chair

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ATTEST:

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KRISTIN RANDLETT, Clerk to the Board