

Resolution No. R-023- 056

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

**RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING MAY 2023 AS MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS  
MONTH.**

***WHEREAS***, mental health is part of overall health and is something we all have; and

***Whereas*** mental health conditions are common in the United States with, in 2022, over 20% of U.S. adults and 17% of U.S. youth ages 6-17 experiencing a mental health problem; 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 – occur between the time symptoms first appear and when individuals get help, and less than half of adults and approximately half of youth experiencing a mental/behavioral health condition each year receive treatment; and

***Whereas*** suicide ranked as the 8<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death in Colorado in 2021, and remains the number 1 cause of death among individuals aged 15-24 years old in Colorado; and in 2020, 51% of men and 68% of women in Colorado who died by suicide had a known mental health condition; and

***Whereas*** in 2021, over 58,000 Douglas County adults, or 19%, reported poor mental health, meaning 14 or more days out of the last 30 days their lives were impacted due to poor mental health; and

***Whereas*** the Douglas County Mental Health Initiative (DCMHI) was established in 2014 under the leadership of the Board of County Commissioners to address mental health system gaps, and is currently represented by 50+ organizational members dedicated to improving mental and behavioral health outcomes in Douglas County; and

***Whereas*** the DCMHI launched the Community Response Team program six years ago in May 2017, and since then has served 6,994 unique individuals, prevented 1,329 unnecessary trips to the emergency department for mental health crisis, prevented 563 jail bookings, served 2,066 people through its case management service, and have saved over \$10.4 million in Fire and Emergency Medical Services, Emergency Department and Jail costs alone; and

*Whereas* the Community Response Team will expand this year to nine teams, serving the entire county, and for the first time provide weekend coverage; and

*Whereas* the DCMHI launched The Care Compact in 2020 to provide care coordination for adults with complex mental health, substance use, intellectual and developmental disabilities and unmet basic needs, and which has now served over 70 adults resulting in significant reductions in the use of crisis and emergency services; and

*Whereas* the DCMHI collaborative is actively working on multiple strategies to improve the mental health network of care, address the persistent stigma that surrounds mental health conditions and substance use disorders through stigma reduction and building awareness of community resources, and looks forward to launching in the coming years a response to suicide prevention with the Douglas County Health Department, developing partnerships to address men's mental health and the behavioral health workforce shortage; and

*Whereas* the Douglas County Board of County Commissioners has dedicated \$9,060,800 of the County's \$68.2 million in American Rescue Plan Act funding to mental and behavioral health programming, including investments in Veterans' mental health services, an all-ages Walk-In Crisis Center and a child and adolescent Crisis Stabilization Unit, suicide prevention, expansion of the Community Response Team and Care Compact programs, community education and a funding contribution to implement the new 9-8-8 crisis and support line; and

*Whereas* the DCMHI 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.

**NOW WHEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Douglas, Colorado do hereby proclaim May 1 through May 31, 2023 as Mental Health Awareness Month to shine a light on mental health conditions and fight stigma, provide support, educate the public and advocate for equitable access to care.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED**, this 9th day of May 2023, 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:**

DocuSigned by:



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**Roberta Nelson, Clerk to the Board**