

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF THE
COUNTY OF SUMMIT
STATE OF COLORADO**

RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING MAY 2021 AS “MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH” IN SUMMIT COUNTY, COLORADO.

WHEREAS, The COVID-19 pandemic has created national and international challenges related to mental health, with nearly 45% of adults in the United States reporting that their mental health has worsened since the start of the pandemic response in March 2020 (Panchal et al., 2020); and

WHEREAS, every American is affected or impacted by mental health issues either personally or through their friends and family; and

WHEREAS, mental illness is one of the leading causes of disabilities in the United States, impacting both the person with the illness and those persons who care for and love the person afflicted; and

WHEREAS, an estimated 26% of Americans ages 18 and older -- about 1 in 4 adults -- suffers from a diagnosable mental disorder in a given year. Many people suffer from more than one mental disorder at a given time; and

WHEREAS, when compared to other Colorado communities, the incidence of substance abuse and mental health indicators is elevated in Summit County and as a result the County is concerned about the impacts of mental illness on the quality of life for our residents; and

WHEREAS, although mental illness impacts all people, many of those in lower-income communities receive less care, poorer quality of care, and often lack access to linguistically and culturally accessible care, thereby resulting in mental health disparities; and

WHEREAS, some see negative perceptions about mental health care as a significant factor contributing to limited or nonexistent access to care, and some common concerns are stigma, culture, masculinity, exposure to violence, and lack of information and awareness, among many others; and

WHEREAS, nearly two-thirds of all people with a diagnosable mental illness do not receive mental health treatment due to stigma, lack of community-based resources, inadequate diagnosis, or no diagnosis; and

WHEREAS, there is a need to improve public awareness of mental illness and to strengthen local and national awareness, so that all those with mental illness may receive adequate and appropriate treatment and support; and

WHEREAS, access to mental health treatment and services is of paramount importance; and

WHEREAS, there is a need to encourage primary care physicians to offer screenings, to partner with mental health care providers, to seek appropriate referrals to specialists, and to encourage timely and accurate diagnoses of mental disorders; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners wishes to enhance public awareness of mental illness.

NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT MAY 2021 IS HEREBY PROCLAIMED TO BE MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH IN SUMMIT COUNTY, COLORADO.

ADOPTED THIS 27th DAY OF APRIL, 2021.

**COUNTY OF SUMMIT
STATE OF COLORADO
BY AND THROUGH ITS
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

Elisabeth Lawrence, Chair

ATTEST:

Kathleen Neel, Clerk & Recorder