

The County of Centre

PROCLAMATION

NUMBER 11 OF 2018

WHEREAS, mental illness is a biological brain disorder including schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, major depression, obsessive compulsive disorder, and panic disorder; all of which can critically interfere with a person's ability to think, feel, and relate to other people and their environment; and

WHEREAS, mental illness is a serious health problem with an effect on 1 in 4 Americans; prejudice and stigma remains the greatest obstacle to seeking treatment, 75% of people needing treatment do not seek it because of prejudice and stigma; and

WHEREAS, mental illness can be effectively treated with medications and a strong community-based support system including supportive and therapeutic counseling, peer support groups, housing, psychiatric rehabilitation, vocational rehabilitation, educational opportunities, employment, income assistance, and other community and charitable agencies; and

WHEREAS, mental illnesses are far more common than cancer, diabetes, heart disease, or arthritis, and the strongest weapon against them is science; progressive brain research and genetic discoveries continue moving us one step closer to sound medical answers for living with, and perhaps one day even preventing or curing, severe mental illnesses; and

WHEREAS, mental illness has a new perception emerging – one that focuses on early intervention, effective treatment, rehabilitation, and recovery, and one that reinforces the importance of speaking out for yourself and for your community, and making the most of family in your recovery; and

WHEREAS, mental illness was once concealed, it is now understood that individuals with these disorders have a real chance at reclaiming full and productive lives, but only if they have access to the treatments, services, and programs vital to recovery;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Centre County Board of Commissioners does hereby proclaim the month of **May 2018** as “**Mental Health Awareness Month**” in Centre County and urges citizens of Centre County who are afflicted by a mental illness to seek one of the many successful mental health services available here in Centre County.

ADOPTED this 24th day of April 2018.



CENTRE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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Steven G. Dershem

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