

# The County of Centre

## PROCLAMATION

NUMBER 13 OF 2021

**WHEREAS**, mental health is a key component of everyone's overall physical health and emotional well-being; and

**WHEREAS**, 18.5% of the nation's population, approximately 43 million people, experiences mental illness, that includes major depressive disorder, schizophrenia, and/or bipolar disorder; and

**WHEREAS**, mood disorders are the third most common cause of hospitalization in the United States for youth and ages 18 to 44 years old; and

**WHEREAS**, untreated mental illness leads to greater numbers of emergency department visits, hospitalizations, school drop-outs, and suicides; and

**WHEREAS**, increased focus on the prevention of mental health conditions and substance use disorders among children and adolescents through screening and early intervention helps improve lives; and

**WHEREAS**, feelings of personal shame and fears of social discrimination prevent many living with mental illness from seeking help; and

**WHEREAS**, people with lived experience of mental illness and/or substance use disorders get better, live in recovery, and provide invaluable knowledge of how to improve and transform systems of care; and

**WHEREAS** we strive to create communities that support mental wellness by increasing access to treatment, educating ourselves and our communities about mental wellness, and supporting our fellow citizens as they seek to improve their mental health.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the Centre County Board of Commissioners does hereby proclaim the month of **May 2021** 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 4<sup>th</sup> day of May 2021.



CENTRE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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Michael Pipe, Chair

*Mark Higgins*

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Steven G. Dershem

ATTEST:

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Margaret N. Gray, Administrator