

Proclamation

REQUESTED BY
COMMISSIONER NAN RICH
BROWARD COUNTY

WHEREAS, mental illnesses are serious medical problems that disrupt a person's daily functioning; and

WHEREAS, approximately one in five adults will be diagnosed with a mental illness in their life, and only one out of two people with a serious form of mental illness will seek treatment; and

WHEREAS, stigma and fear of discrimination over their condition prevents many who would benefit from mental health services from seeking help; and

WHEREAS, good mental health is critical to the well-being of our families, communities, schools, and businesses; and

WHEREAS, people with mental illness make significant contributions to our families and communities and recover if given the necessary services and support in their communities; and

WHEREAS, Broward County recognizes the work of many partners in serving those with mental health needs, including the Broward Behavioral Health Coalition (BBHC), Henderson Behavioral Health, Mental Health America of Southeast Florida (MHA), National Alliance of Mental Illness (NAMI) of Broward County, and many others; and

WHEREAS, NAMI of Broward County provides free support groups, education classes and seminars, legislative advocacy, and information for people in the community living with mental illness as well as their loved ones; and

WHEREAS, Henderson Behavioral Health inspires and assists people with mental illnesses and substance use disorders to reclaim their lives by supporting employment, advocacy, and housing opportunities; and

WHEREAS, MHA of Southeast Florida is dedicated to promoting mental health and victory over mental illness and related challenges through education, prevention, advocacy, research and empowerment; and

WHEREAS, the BBHC, as Broward's Managing Entity, provides a comprehensive system of care for substance use, mental health, and co-occurring disorders for individuals in the community, especially through the One Community Partnership 3 (OCP3) grant and county initiative, which provides behavioral health services to transition-age youth and emerging adults; and

WHEREAS, it is proper that a month be set apart for the direction of our thoughts toward mental health and wellbeing; **NOW, THEREFORE**

BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA:

That the Board hereby designates May 2021 as 'MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH' in Broward County, Florida, and urges all citizens in our community to commit to increasing awareness and understanding of mental illnesses, reducing stigma and discrimination, while working to provide appropriate and accessible services for all people with mental illnesses.

5-4-21

Date



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Steve Salik".

Mayor