

Mental Health Awareness Month

May 2013

WHEREAS, May 2013 is celebrated as Mental Health Awareness Month around the United States; and

WHEREAS, During May and throughout the year our society must promote the understanding that mental health illnesses are treatable conditions, and those who live with these afflictions deserve to be helped and not stigmatized or discriminated against; and

WHEREAS, Outreach efforts will occur throughout the state in May 2013, and many of these events will focus specifically on eliminating the stigma associated with mental illness; and

WHEREAS, Twenty-six percent of the U.S. population have a diagnosable mental disorder in a given year, which impacts many lives without regard to age, ethnicity, gender or income; and

WHEREAS, In the state of California one in five families is directly affected by mental illness, and thousands of family members experience profound consequences indirectly as they watch their friends or loved ones struggle with this illness; and

WHEREAS, Nineteen percent of Alameda County’s population suffers from emotional disturbance or mental illness; and

WHEREAS, in 2012, Alameda County’s Department of Behavioral Health Care Services served almost 33,000 residents. Over 21,000 of the individuals served were adults and over 11,000 were children.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that this Board of Supervisors, County of Alameda, does hereby proclaim the month of May as Mental Health Awareness Month, to heighten public awareness of mental health issues and to assist mental health consumers and their families in eliminating the stigma of mental health illness.

KEITH CARSON, President
Supervisor, Fifth District

May 7, 2013

SCOTT HAGGERTY, Vice-President
Supervisor, First District

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