

PROCLAMATION OF THE MENDOCINO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

“RECOGNIZING MAY 2017 AS MENTAL HEALTH MONTH IN MENDOCINO COUNTY”

WHEREAS, since 1949, Congress has officially recognized May as “Mental Health Month”; and

WHEREAS, serious mental illnesses such as major depression, bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, obsessive-compulsive disorder, severe anxiety disorders, borderline personality disorder, and post-traumatic stress disorder affects one in every five people annually, and touches almost every family in Mendocino County; and

WHEREAS, there is no health without mental health; and

WHEREAS, mental health is the underlying base for cognitive and communication skills, learning, emotional growth, resilience and self-esteem; and

WHEREAS, untreated mental illness is the leading cause of disability and suicide and imposes high costs on government in emergency medical care, long-term nursing home care, unemployment, housing and law enforcement, including juvenile justice, jail, prison and court costs; and

WHEREAS, mental health is critical for our personal vitality as well as that of our families, businesses, and communities; and

WHEREAS, the Mendocino County Health and Human Services Agency is committed to transforming the way mental health services are provided to include: evidenced based treatment, support, integration of mental health, substance use disorders and primary care services, early intervention with a help-first rather than fail-first approach and community Wellness and Recovery Centers where clients can find hope, empowerment, personal responsibility, and a meaningful role in life; and

WHEREAS, Mendocino County individuals, non-profit and public agencies, and other organizations and entities will make continuing commitments to increase funding and help those suffering from mental illness; and

WHEREAS, proper treatment including integrated care management and peer services is a priority in Mendocino County to prevent unnecessary incarceration, hospitalizations and out of county placement, and to promote wellness and recovery; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative that we work to eradicate the stigma and discrimination associated with mental illness and work together with compassion to create a mental health system where access is easier, and services are more effective.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Mendocino, hereby proclaims May 2017, as:

“Mental Health Month in Mendocino County”

Dated: May 2, 2017

John McCowen, Chair