

Proclamation

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS, Mental Health Month has been observed since 1949 to raise awareness of mental health conditions and the importance of mental health; and

WHEREAS, we are all affected by mental health, and one in four Coloradoans experience mental health conditions or substance use disorders, or both, each year; and

WHEREAS, the stigma against mental health conditions remains one of the greatest barriers to improving the lives of all Coloradans through better mental health; and

WHEREAS, mental health systems of care must be designed to meet the needs of the people being served; and

WHEREAS, 50% of all people with mental health conditions experience them by age 14, and 74% by age 24; and

WHEREAS, trusting and respectful relationships are the basis for successful treatment engagement and recovery; 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, comprehensive, community-based services that respond to individuals with mental health needs are cost-effective and beneficial to consumers and our community; and

WHEREAS, access to necessary medication and appropriate treatment helps prevent individuals from ending up in emergency rooms and jails; 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, it costs 7 times more to incarcerate someone with mental health issues than to treat them in the community; and

WHEREAS, there is a strong and growing body of evidence that supports the cost effectiveness and benefits to communities that have successfully implemented continuums of mental health care; and

THEREFORE, the Berthoud Board of Trustees hereby proclaim May 2019 as

Mental Health Awareness Month

in Berthoud, Colorado. As the Mayor Pro-Tem, I also call upon the citizens, government agencies, public and private institutions, businesses and school districts to reaffirm our commitment to improving the overall health and well-being of our community; to increasing awareness and understanding of mental health, substance use disorders and co-occurring disorders; and the need for appropriate and accessible treatment and care for all people who have experienced these illnesses.

Dated this 23rd day of April, 2019.

Jeff Hindman, Mayor Pro-Tem

