

Proclamation

PROCLAIMING THE MONTH OF APRIL 2022 AS "NATIONAL ALCOHOL ABUSE AWARENESS MONTH" IN INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, FLORIDA

Whereas, alcohol abuse and addiction transcends all ethnic, racial and socioeconomic boundaries. Alcohol Use Disorder (AUD) is a chronic relapsing brain disease characterized by an impaired ability to stop or control alcohol use despite adverse social, occupational, or health consequences and the effects of this disease are far-reaching. It is particularly devastating because it so often occurs in the privacy of the home and is so readily accessible; and

Whereas, during the month of April, Americans should contemplate the scars that alcohol abuse leaves; and because alcohol abuse usually takes place in private, many Americans may not realize how widespread it is right here in our own County. More than 60% of high school students in Indian River County do not believe that daily alcohol use is harmful to them. The percentage rate of binge drinking among adults in Indian River County rose by 5% since the previous measure by the United Way of Indian River County Community Assessment; and

Whereas, each year in the United States, more than 14 million Adults and 414,000 adolescents suffered from AUD, and 8 million Americans reported binge drinking on a monthly basis. As unsettling as these statistics are, it is also disturbing to realize that the behaviors of parents with AUD and the stressful family situations caused by the parents' condition can negatively affect children in the areas of health, academics, and psychosocial development from ages 6 to 17 years; and

Whereas, our prosecutors, law enforcement officers, and addiction specialists have worked together with Just Believe Recovery to reduce the rate of AUD in our County and help addicts and their families through the recovery process. Through education, awareness, and enforcement, we are striving to prevent AUD. Public action awareness will create a society that promotes strong values, fosters a safe and loving home environment for every family, and offers resources and support to those who need it.

Now, therefore, be it proclaimed by the Board of County Commissioners of Indian River County, Florida, that the month of April, 2022, be designated as "**NATIONAL ALCOHOL ABUSE AWARENESS MONTH**" in Indian River County, Florida. This Board urges all citizens to actively participate in the scheduled activities and programs sponsored by Just Believe Recovery to work toward the elimination of drug and alcohol abuse.

Adopted this 19th day of April, 2022.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS,
INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, FLORIDA**

Peter D. O'Bryan, Chairman

Joseph H. Earman, Vice Chairman

Susan Adams

Joseph E. Flescher

Laura Moss