

Proclamation

Recognizing Mental Health Awareness Month May 2023

Whereas, mental health is key to overall wellness, as mental health influences decision making, behavior, and consequently, physical health; and

Whereas, over half of adults living with mental health illnesses do not seek treatment; and

Whereas, a growing number of youth in the United States live with depression, more than 16% of young people ages 12-17 have experienced major depression, with rates of sadness and hopelessness among teenagers reaching their highest point in a decade; and

Whereas, in 2023, more than 11% of children and adults continue to lack adequate medical insurance coverage for essential mental health services, and Florida is ranked 46th out of 50 states with access to mental health care; and

Whereas, social stigma, financial barriers, and limited awareness are the primary obstacles to getting help and, as community leaders, we must prepare for an increase in demand on services through education, outreach, and ever greater access to care to ensure our community's overall health; and

Whereas, it is the duty of each and every one of us to provide continued and consistent access to mental health care resources; and

Whereas, the Commissioners of Indian River County strive to promote a community who supports mental wellness, including greater access to treatment, increasing educational tools and resources for our citizens, and continually supporting those citizens with mental health opportunities.

Now, therefore, be it proclaimed by the Board of County Commissioners of Indian River County, Florida, that the Board recognizes May 2023 as **Mental Health Awareness Month**.

Adopted this 16th day of May, 2023.

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

Joseph H. Earman, Chairman

Susan Adams, Vice Chairman

Joseph E. Flescher

Deryl Loar

Laura Moss