

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF HEALTH
OF ISLAND COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

**IN THE MATTER OF DECLARING MAY AS)
MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH)**

Resolution No. HD-01-24

WHEREAS, nearly one in five adults and one in five adolescents in the United States live with a mental illness; and

WHEREAS, Mental health impacts a person's emotional, social, environmental, financial and overall well-being, with significant disparities among racially and ethnically diverse communities; and

WHEREAS, suicide is now the second leading cause of death for 15-to-24-year-olds, with teenagers experiencing a 17.3% increase in the use of anxiety medications since 2010; and

WHEREAS, one third of the United States population lives in a county designated as a mental health professional shortage area; and

WHEREAS, an estimated 44% of residents detained in jails are suffering from a mental illness, often with co-occurring substance use disorders; and

WHEREAS, Island County and all counties serve as a safety net for residents in need, first responders, and operators of crisis lines, public hospitals and detention centers; and

WHEREAS, Island County supports federal efforts to address the ongoing mental health crisis by amending exclusionary policies under Medicaid, building and supporting a strong mental health workforce, enhancing local crisis response systems and supporting mental health parity; and

WHEREAS, Island County addresses critical gaps by providing community-based behavioral health services, youth behavioral health programs, access to extracurricular activities for adolescents, and support for social drivers of health, including affordable housing, stabilization facilities, nutritional services, and other supports.

NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE PROCLAIMED, that the Island County Board of Health declares May as Mental Health Awareness Month in Island County to highlight the critical role of the county in providing crucial behavioral health services and resources to its residents; and

BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED, the Island County Board of Health continues its commitment to partner with our community members to ensure that all mental health services are accessible, valuable and culturally appropriate for all residents

PASSED AND APPROVED on this 21st day of May, 2024.

**BOARD OF HEALTH
ISLAND COUNTY, WASHINGTON**



Commissioner Melanie Bacon
Board of Health Chair

ATTEST:



Dr. Shawn Morris, Public Health Director