

San Juan County, Utah

Resolution 2024-05

Mental Health Awareness Month Resolution

Proclamation Declaring May as Mental Health Awareness Month" for May of 2024

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, San Juan County and all counties serve as a safety net for residents in need, first responders, and operator of crisis lines, public hospitals and detention centers.; and

WHEREAS, San Juan 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 enforcing mental health parity.

WHEREAS, San Juan County has experienced and continues to see an increase in mental illness throughout the County and in our efforts with San Juan Counseling and the hiring of Blomquist Hale, a mental health provider to help our County employees with mental health and substance use treatment; and

NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE PROCLAIMED, THAT the San Juan County Board of Commissioners declares May as Mental Health Awareness Month in San Juan 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 San Juan County Board of Commissioners 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 in this 21st day of May, 2024.

By:  _____

Jamie Harvey, Commission Chair

By:  _____

Silvia Stubbs, Commission Vice-Chair

By:  _____

Bruce Adams, Commissioner