

PROCLAMATION

DECLARING MAY 2019 AS MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS AND TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE MONTH IN PALM BEACH COUNTY

WHEREAS, mental health is essential to everyone's overall health and well-being; and

WHEREAS, everyone experiences times of stress and struggles in their lives; and

WHEREAS, one in four adults and one in five youth ages 13-18 experience serious mental illness; and

WHEREAS, in Palm Beach County in 2015-2017, the latest three-year period for which reliable data is available from state agencies, 1,495 children ages 1 through 5 received mental health services, a rate of 6.9 per 1,000 children that age, and that rate is higher than the statewide rate of 2.8 per 1,000 children ages 1 through 5 in the same three-year period; and

WHEREAS, 60 percent of adults and 50 percent of youth do not receive the treatment necessary for their mental health needs due to limited or no knowledge of the need, barriers to care, or fear and shame; and

WHEREAS, research recognizes that adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) – which include, but are not limited to physical, emotional and sexual abuse, physical and emotional neglect, household dysfunction, untreated mental illness, incarceration of a household member, domestic violence, and separation or divorce involving household members – are traumatic experiences that can have a profound effect on a child's developing brain and body and can result in poor physical and mental health during childhood and adulthood; and

WHEREAS, community understanding and available supports and services can greatly impact a person's ability to handle their stress and struggle and move forward; and

WHEREAS, promoting mental health and wellness leads to higher overall productivity, better educational outcomes, lower crime rates, stronger economies, lower health care costs, improved family life, improved quality of life and increased lifespan; and

WHEREAS, studies show that the effects of ACEs are felt by people regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, gender, sexual orientation, or socio-economic status;

WHEREAS, each business, school, government agency, healthcare provider, faith-based organization, non-profit agency and citizen shares accountability for the community's mental health needs and has a responsibility to promote mental wellness and support prevention efforts; and

WHEREAS, Children's Services Council of Palm Beach County recognizes the impact of awareness and education, access to services and acceptance of the importance of mental health and well-being to a person's overall success and supports the implementation of trauma-informed approaches throughout the systems of care.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE

CHILDREN'S SERVICES COUNCIL OF PALM BEACH COUNTY proclaims the month of
May, 2019 as Mental Health Awareness and Trauma-Informed Care Month in Palm Beach
County.

May 2019 – Mental Health Awareness and Trauma-Informed Care Month

The foregoing Resolution was offered by Council Member Vincent Goodman who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Council Member Thomas Bean and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

The Chairman thereupon declared the Resolution duly passed and adopted this 23rd day of May, 2019.

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY

BY: Thomas A. Sheehan, III
Thomas A. Sheehan, III
Attorney for Children's Services Council
of Palm Beach County

CHILDREN'S SERVICES COUNCIL
OF PALM BEACH COUNTY

BY: Thomas P. Weber
Thomas P. Weber, Chair

BY: Lisa Williams-Taylor
Lisa Williams-Taylor, Ph.D.
Chief Executive Officer