



Town of Johnstown

PROCLAMATION

Mental Health Awareness Month: May 2021

WHEREAS, Mental Health Awareness Month has been observed since 1949 to raise awareness of mental health conditions and the importance of mental health; and

WHEREAS, We are all affected by mental health; and

WHEREAS, 20% of Coloradoans live with mental illness – the third highest in the nation; and

WHEREAS, Colorado ranks 43rd out of 50 states with a higher prevalence of mental health issues and lower rates of access to care for adults; and

WHEREAS, In 2020 37% of Coloradoans reported symptoms of anxiety and/or depression

WHEREAS, Larimer County experiences a suicide every 5 days and it is the second leading cause of youth deaths; and

WHEREAS, Cost-effective and beneficial mental health systems of care must be expanded to meet the varying levels of care needed by the people being served; and

WHEREAS, Reduction of stigma, broad outreach and effective prevention efforts of mental health conditions and substance use disorders help improve lives; and

WHEREAS, Access to necessary medication, appropriate treatment; and responsive peer support helps prevent individuals from ending up in emergency rooms and jails; and

WHEREAS, People with lived experience of mental illness and/or substance use disorders get better, live in recovery, and provide invaluable knowledge of how to improve and transform systems of care, and

WHEREAS, it costs seven times more to incarcerate someone with mental illness than to treat them in the community; and

WHEREAS, there is strong and growing body of evidence that supports the cost-effectiveness and benefits to communities that have successfully implemented continuums of mental health care; and

THEREFORE, the Town Council hereby proclaims May 2021 as **Mental Health Awareness Month** in Larimer County. As Mayor, I also call upon the citizens, government agencies, public and private institutions, businesses, and school districts to commit our community to increase

awareness and understanding of mental health, and the need for appropriate and accessible treatment and care for all people who have mental health needs.

Dated this 3rd day of May, 2021.

TOWN OF JOHNSTOWN, COLORADO

ATTEST

By: _____

Gary Lebsack, Mayor

By: _____

Diana Seele, Town Clerk