



WHITE LAKE TOWNSHIP PROCLAMATION MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH – MAY 2022

WHEREAS, mental health is important for our individual well-being and vitality, as well as that of our families, communities, and businesses; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has been a reminder of the importance of integrating mental health into preparedness and response plans for public health emergencies; and

WHEREAS, younger adults, racial/ethnic minorities, essential workers, and adult caregivers reported having disproportionately worse mental health outcomes, increased substance use, and elevated suicide ideation associated with COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, according to the World Health Organization as many as one in six U.S. children aged 6-17 years has treatable mental health disorder such as depression, anxiety problems or attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD); and

WHEREAS, according to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), between 2016-2019, approximately 5.8 million children ages 3-17 years were diagnosed with anxiety and 2.7 million were diagnosed with depression; and

WHEREAS, May 5, 2022 has been designated the National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day; and May 1 through May 7, 2022 is designated as Children's Mental Health Awareness Week; and

WHEREAS, Oakland Community Health Network (OCHN) is committed to being a Zero Suicide organization and cultivate a network of providers who are engaged in the Zero Suicide philosophy; and

WHEREAS, mental illness is a biologically based brain disorder that cannot be overcome through "will power" and is not related to a defect in a person's "character" or intelligence; and

WHEREAS, mental health recovery not only benefits individuals with mental health disorders by focusing on their abilities to live, work, learn and fully participate and contribute to our society, but also enriches the culture of our community life; and

WHEREAS, improved systems of care for children and families; enhanced and expanded access to non-emergent and crisis services; advanced integrated physical and behavioral health care, collaborative provider relations, and a strengthened workforce are identified priorities for OCHN; and

WHEREAS, the OCHN, and its service provider agencies, are committed to inspiring hope, empowering people, and strengthening communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that, White Lake Township hereby recognizes May 2022, as Mental Health Awareness month. White Lake calls upon our citizens, government agencies, public and private institutions, businesses, and schools to recommit our state to increasing awareness and understanding of mental illness, and the need for appropriate and accessible services for all people with mental illness to promote recovery.

Rik Kowall, Township Supervisor 4-19-22