

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON**

**PROCLAMATION NO. 2016-039**

Proclaiming May 2016 as Mental Health Month in Multnomah County, Oregon.

**The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Finds:**

- Behavioral health is an essential part of our overall wellness and plays a pivotal role in our day-to-day wellbeing.
- There is growing recognition across the country about behavioral health and mental illness being fundamental public health issues.
- Many individuals in our community live with a mental illness and each one experiences it in a unique way.
- Multnomah County is committed to confronting the challenges posed by mental illness, which include an increased risk for substance use, economic and health disparities, disparate interaction with the public safety system, and a lack of access to housing resources.
- We know treatment is effective, prevention works, and people can and do recover from mental illness. Peer support and employment are essential components of our recovery oriented treatment system.
- Education is essential to understanding mental illness as a treatable condition, not a stigma. People should seek help for their conditions with the same urgency as they would any other health issue.
- Individuals with a mental illness should have the ability to fully participate in civic life, including appropriate client centered health care, fair and decent housing, opportunity for economic advancement, and understanding from others in the community.
- Multnomah County is dedicated to increasing awareness by offering trainings for mental health first aid and suicide prevention to better equip our community to act skillfully in the event of a mental health crisis until professional help is available.
- Multnomah County will continue to work with peers and consumers towards building an inclusive, accepting, and thoughtful community where individuals with mental illness are treated with the respect, dignity, and the worth they deserve.

**The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Proclaims:**

The month of May 2016 is proclaimed to be Mental Health Month in Multnomah County, Oregon. We invite all residents of Multnomah County to observe this month with activities supporting this year's theme, *"Life with a Mental Illness"*.

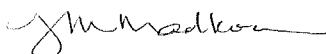
**ADOPTED this 12th day of May 2016.**



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

  
Deborah Kafoury, Chair

REVIEWED:  
JENNY M. MADKOUR, COUNTY ATTORNEY  
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON



By \_\_\_\_\_  
Jenny M. Madkour, County Attorney

SUBMITTED BY: David Hidalgo, Mental Health and Addiction Services Director, Health Department.