

3
4 **A RESOLUTION**

5
6 Supporting mental health treatment and care and recognizing May as Mental Health
7 Awareness Month

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9 WHEREAS, mental health affects all people regardless of culture, race, ethnicity,
10 gender, or sexual orientation; and

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12 WHEREAS, the National Alliance on Mental Illness reports that 1 in 5 of U.S.
13 adults experience mental illness each year and 1 in 20 U.S. adults experience serious
14 mental illness each year; and

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16 WHEREAS, some of the common signs of mental illness include feeling very sad
17 or withdrawn for more than two weeks, severe risk-taking behavior that causes harm to
18 self or others, intense worries or fears that get in the way of daily activities, and/or
19 excessive use of drugs or alcohol; and

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21 WHEREAS, untreated mental illness can cause suicide and untreated
22 depression is the number one cause of suicide; and

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24 WHEREAS, Milwaukee County, under the governance of the Mental Health
25 Board and County Executive, operate the Behavioral Health Services (BHS) Division of
26 the Department of Health and Human Services; and

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28 WHEREAS, BHS has expanded community-based behavioral health programs
29 and services for residents in Milwaukee County and partnered with local health systems
30 and community health centers to increase access to high-quality behavioral health
31 services and reduce inpatient admissions; and

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33 WHEREAS, BHS) reports that in 2022, Milwaukee County saw an overall
34 decrease in suicide deaths and continues to address mental health disparities in various
35 communities; and

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37 WHEREAS, understanding the prevalence and signs of mental illness in our
38 nation can help raise public awareness, fight the stigma surrounding mental illness, and
39 save lives; and

41 WHEREAS, since 1949, May has been recognized as National Mental Health
42 Month; and

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44 WHEREAS, the Committee on Health Equity, Human Needs, and Strategic
45 Planning, at its meeting of May 10, 2023, recommended adoption of File No. 23-573
46 (vote 3-0); now, therefore,

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48 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors hereby
49 supports mental health treatment and care and designates May as Mental Health
50 Awareness Month in Milwaukee County.

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05/10/23
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