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A resolution by Supervisors Taylor (2) and Moore Omokunde recognizing May as Mental Health Awareness Month, by recommending adoption of the following:

A RESOLUTION

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

WHEREAS, mental illness is real and prevalent in our nation with the National Alliance on Mental Illness reporting that one in every five adults in America experience a mental illness annually; and

WHEREAS, approximately one in 25 adults in America are currently living with a serious mental illness; and

WHEREAS, mental health affects people of all ages with one-half of all chronic mental illnesses beginning by the age of 14; and

WHEREAS, mental illness is a local issue; and

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) reported that the prevalence rates of mental illness in Wisconsin are at 19 percent; and

WHEREAS, in Milwaukee County, DHS estimates that there are 130,889 adults, and 34,969 children living with a mental illness; and

WHEREAS, jails and prisons have become the default places of custodial care for people suffering with serious mental illness as evidenced by the more than two million Americans with mental illness booked into jails each year; and

WHEREAS, untreated mental illness can cause suicide, with untreated depression as the number one cause of suicide; and

WHEREAS, raising awareness of mental health issues can help individuals, families, and the community by lessening the stigma surrounding the issue, and allowing individuals to get the help they need and deserve; and

WHEREAS, with proper treatment, most people living with mental illness can lead happy, productive, and full lives; and

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

47 WHEREAS, the Committee on Health and Human Needs, at its meeting of
48 May 17, 2017, recommended adoption of File No. 17-412 (vote 5-0); now, therefore,
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50 BE IT RESOLVED, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors designates May
51 as Mental Health Awareness Month.

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