

Proclamation

In Recognition of Mental Health Month 2022

WHEREAS, mental health is essential to overall health and well-being, and all people experience times of difficulty and stress in their lives and should feel comfortable in seeking help and support to manage these times; and

WHEREAS, like physical illness, mental illness is a medical condition that can be treated effectively through prevention, early identification, and early intervention, and with effective treatment, all individuals with mental illness can make progress toward recovery and lead full, productive lives; and

WHEREAS, May is annually recognized throughout the nation as Mental Health Month, and the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) has declared “Together for Mental Health” as the 2022 Mental Health Month theme, recognizing the importance of working together to advocate for mental health and access to care; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has created a multitude of mental health challenges for our community members of all ages, and connecting people to care is more important than ever; and

WHEREAS, compassion, empathy, and understanding are the antidote to stigma associated with mental illness and mental health treatment and, since 2015, the County of Bergen has worked to reduce and eliminate harmful stereotypes regarding mental illness through the Stigma-Free campaign, which has been expanded to each of the county’s 70 municipalities; and

WHEREAS, the County of Bergen maintains and fosters an extensive array of community partnerships to sustain a comprehensive community mental health system that is responsive to community and residents’ needs and directly offers compassionate and expert guidance to residents who require assistance in navigating the complex mental health system; and

WHEREAS, the County of Bergen will continue to lead the way in promoting understanding and supportive communities and working to support those living with mental illness throughout Bergen County.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT

I, JAMES J. TEDESCO III,
EXECUTIVE OF THE COUNTY OF BERGEN
IN THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY,
DO HEREBY DECLARE MAY 2022 AS

MENTAL HEALTH MONTH

JAMES J. TEDESCO III
BERGEN COUNTY EXECUTIVE

I also call upon all citizens, parents, governmental agencies, public and private institutions, businesses, hospitals, schools and colleges in Bergen County, NJ to support efforts that will decrease stigma and

increase community awareness and support for individuals and families experiencing symptoms of a mental illness in our community.