

2023 RES-044
In Support of Youth Mental Health Access and
Recognizing May as Mental Health Awareness Month

WHEREAS, May 1st marks the beginning of Mental Health Awareness Month which has been observed in the United States since 1949 and encourages everyone to be aware of their mental well-being; and

WHEREAS, nationally, an estimated 49.5% of adolescents have had a mental health disorder at some point in their life but only 20% of youth with mental, emotional, or behavioral disorders receive mental health care; and

WHEREAS, students from Wisconsin face high levels of anxiety, with 52.2% of Wisconsin students self-reporting “significant problems with anxiety” and 33.7% of Wisconsin students reporting feeling sad or hopeless every day, an increase of 5.2% since 2019; and

WHEREAS, the mental health crisis disproportionately affects students of color and LGBTQ+ students in Dane County with multicultural and BIPOC students experiencing the highest proportion of poor mental health outcomes among racial categories and LGBTQ+ youth experiencing the highest levels of poor mental health outcomes among groups of youth; and

WHEREAS, nearly one in five adults in the United States live with a mental illness and face the reality of managing a mental illness everyday, and, in Dane County, adults reported that their mental health was not good on 4.4 of the previous 30 days; and

WHEREAS, in his State of the State speech, Governor Evers declared 2023 as the year of mental health, marking the state government's investment in ensuring all Wisconsinites have access to mental health services; and

WHEREAS, mental health impacts a person’s emotional, social, environmental, financial and overall well-being, with significant disparities among racially and ethnically diverse and LGBTQ+ communities; and

WHEREAS, greater public awareness about mental illnesses can change negative attitudes and behaviors toward people with mental illnesses and creating a community where everyone feels comfortable reaching out for the support they deserve is crucial to ending the stigma around mental health; and

WHEREAS, the County of Dane and organizations throughout the community such as NAMI Dane County, RISE, and Anesis Therapy are dedicated to providing and investing in the necessary resources to improve the mental health outcomes of all residents.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Dane County Board of Supervisors commits to addressing the youth mental health crisis, investing in mental health resources, and recognizes May as Mental Health Awareness Month.

Patrick Miles, Chair
Dane County Board of Supervisor

Signed and sealed before me this
_____ day of _____, 2023.

Scott McDonell, Dane County Clerk