

2024 RES-087
RECOGNIZING JULY 2024 AS BLACK, INDIGENOUS, AND PEOPLE OF COLOR (BIPOC)
MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS, July 1st marks the beginning of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) Mental Health Awareness Month, previously known as National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month, and honors the late Bebe Moore Campbell, a nationally recognized journalist, teacher, author, and mental health advocate; the month of July is dedicated to continuing her legacy by focusing on the mental health needs and experiences of BIPOC communities; and

WHEREAS, mental health is essential to everyone’s overall health and well-being; and

WHEREAS, BIPOC communities often face systemic barriers to mental health care, including stigma, discrimination, cultural misunderstandings, and lack of access to quality services; and

WHEREAS, disparities in mental health care and outcomes exist for BIPOC communities; and

WHEREAS, Public Health Madison & Dane County recently published their Hmong Youth Report based off of data collected from the Dane County Youth Assessment which surveys students in grades 7-12; the data indicates that 12% of Hmong students report having depression, but when asked if they experienced depression symptoms, 40% of Hmong students said yes, indicating that some Hmong youth are experiencing depression symptoms, but possibly not being diagnosed; and

WHEREAS, BIPOC Mental Health Awareness month aims to enhance public awareness of mental health issues affecting BIPOC communities, promote culturally competent services, and support the development of policies that address the unique mental health needs of minorities; and

WHEREAS, public and private organizations, community leaders, and individuals play a crucial role in advocating for and providing resources to improve mental health outcomes in BIPOC communities; and

WHEREAS, the Dane County BIPOC Mental Health Coalition is dedicated to collaborating with community partners for racial justice in our mental health system by creating an affinity space to explore and respond to the mental health disparities of BIPOC people, supporting and advising participating agencies in their efforts to address the mental health needs of BIPOC, and advocating for upstream system-level changes needed to support a system of care grounded in belonging, dignity, and antiracism.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Dane County Board of Supervisors recognizes July as BIPOC Mental Health Awareness Month, and is committed to supporting efforts that promote mental health awareness, education, and culturally competent care within BIPOC communities.

Patrick Miles, Chair
Dane County Board of Supervisors

Signed and sealed before me this
_____ day of _____, 2024.

Scott McDonell,
Dane County Clerk