

2026 RES-079

RECOGNIZING JULY 2026 AS BLACK, INDIGENOUS, AND PEOPLE OF COLOR (BIPOC) MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS, the month of July is recognized as Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) Mental Health Awareness Month to dedicate attention to the unique challenges and systematic barriers faced by BIPOC communities—as well as the unique strengths they bring—in addressing mental health struggles; and

WHEREAS, BIPOC Mental Health Month is also known as Bebe Moore National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month to honor the legacy of the trailblazing author, journalist, and mental health advocate Bebe Moore Campbell; and

WHEREAS, mental health is fundamental to overall health and quality of life; access to affirming and culturally grounded systems of care contributes to stronger individuals, families and communities; and

WHEREAS, BIPOC communities continue to experience barriers to accessing behavioral health services, including mental health and substance use support, as a result of longstanding inequities, stigma, and gaps in access to culturally responsive care; and

WHEREAS, specific heightened barriers to mental health access and support in BIPOC communities include lack of diversity among mental health care providers, shortage of culturally competent providers, increased presence of stigma around mental health in some communities, language barriers, lack of insurance or underinsurance, and greater distrust in the health care system due to historical and contemporary injustices and systemic biases toward BIPOC individuals¹; and

WHEREAS, racial trauma, or race-based traumatic stress, refers to the mental and emotional injury caused by encounters with racial bias, ethnic discrimination, racism, and hate crimes. Recurring exposure to these stressors—including microaggressions and vicarious experiences of violence—can create chronic stress that predisposes individuals to conditions like anxiety and depression, further contributing to the public health crisis due to racism²; and

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) recognizes that culturally competent care is not universally available, including access to interpreters and service providers that reflect Wisconsin's demographics, as evidenced in Dane County by the 2024 Human Services Youth Assessment. This assessment found that 50.1% of white students who are depressed receive mental health services compared to only 28% of students of color who are depressed, demonstrating a significant disparity in access to care; and

WHEREAS, the 2026 BIPOC Mental Health Awareness Month aims to create “More Good Days, Together,” by reflecting the understanding that mental well-being is strengthened through

¹ [The Impact Of Intersectionality On Mental Health](https://rtor.org). Resources to Recover. <https://rtor.org>. Accessed July 2026.

² Source: Racial trauma and its health impacts in Black people in the United States and Canada: a scoping review on conceptualizations, definitions and manifestations. PubMed Central. PMC12628536. Accessed July 2026. <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC12628536/>

community, trusted relationships, culturally responsive care, and environments where individuals feel seen, supported, and connected; and

WHEREAS, organizations and partnerships throughout Dane County, including The African Center for Community Development, The Hmong Institute, Centro Hispano of Dane County, Urban Triage, The Progress Center for Black Women, The RCC Sexual Resource Center, and Reach Dane, are advancing community-centered approaches to care by expanding access to mental health services, supporting recovery, strengthening belonging, and building systems rooted in dignity and equity; and

WHEREAS, collaborative efforts such as the Dane County BIPOC Mental Health Coalition, in partnership with community-based organizations across the county, continue to create affinity spaces, support and advise agencies, and advocate for upstream system-level change to address the mental health needs and disparities of BIPOC communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Dane County Board of Supervisors send ceremonial copies of this resolution to the organizations mentioned in the resolution as a token of the Board's appreciation and in recognition of its contributions to the community.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Dane County Board of Supervisors recognizes July 2026 as BIPOC Mental Health Awareness Month and affirms its commitment to fostering conditions that create more good days together through awareness, connection, culturally responsive care, and continued investment in the health and well-being of BIPOC communities.

Patrick Miles, Chair
Dane County Board of Supervisors

Signed and sealed before me this
_____ day of _____, 2026.

Scott McDonell,
Dane County Clerk