



A Tradition of Stewardship  
A Commitment to Service

Agenda Date: 5/9/2017

Agenda Placement: 4C

## NAPA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

### Board Agenda Letter

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** JoAnn Melgar for Howard Himes - Director  
Health & Human Services Operations

**REPORT BY:** JoAnn Melgar, Staff Services Analyst II - 707-253-4722

**SUBJECT:** Presentation of a Proclamation declaring May as "Mental Health Awareness Month"

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#### **RECOMMENDATION**

Presentation of a proclamation to Bill Carter, Napa County Health and Human Services Agency Mental Health Director, and Zachariah Geyer, Mental Health Community Aide declaring May 2017 as "Mental Health Awareness Month" in Napa County.

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The proclamation declaring the month of May as "Mental Health Awareness Month" in Napa County is part of a national effort to increase public awareness of severe mental illness and to promote greater understanding of those who suffer from mental health problems. It is estimated that one in four individuals will experience mental health issues during their lifetime.

Juanita Peña has been instrumental in starting the family advocacy and support group, Napa Citizens for Mental Health. She was a long-time employee of ParentsCAN and is now focusing on her passion of establishing a National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) chapter in Napa to offer support to family members and loved ones of individuals with mental illness.

#### **FISCAL IMPACT**

Is there a Fiscal Impact? No

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION: The proposed action is not a project as defined by 14 California Code of Regulations 15378 (State CEQA Guidelines) and therefore CEQA is not applicable.

**BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION**

The mental health and wellbeing of Napa County residents is a critical issue that affects not only quality of life, but also the health of our communities, families, and economic stability. Mental disorders and mental health challenges affect residents of all backgrounds and all stages of life.

One in four adults will experience a mental illness, individually or through a family member, at some point in their life. It is important to recognize that mental illness affects the entire community regardless of race, gender, age, ethnicity or socioeconomic status. Raising awareness is vital to fighting the stigma associated with mental health challenges as an estimated two-thirds of adults and young people who need mental health care do not receive it due to issues of discrimination associated with mental illness.

By proclaiming May 2017 as "Mental Health Awareness Month," the Napa County Board of Supervisors will help increase awareness of the importance of mental health in the lives of all community members and eliminate the barriers and stigma associated with mental illness. This awareness helps to demonstrate commitment and support to Napa County residents who have mental illness, as well as their families. This proclamation also promotes hope and encourages those with mental illness to lead fulfilling and productive lives.

**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS**

A . Proclamation

CEO Recommendation: Approve

Reviewed By: Bret Prebula