

Santa Fe County Proclamation

PROCLAIMING MAY 2026 AS “MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH”

Introduced by: Commissioner Lisa Cacari Stone

WHEREAS, one in five adults and one in six youth in the United States experience mental health challenges each year, and many suffer in silence due to stigma, discrimination, or lack of access to appropriate care; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that approximately 2,500 Santa Fe County adults have a serious mental illness, and data from the New Mexico Youth Risk and Resiliency Survey indicate that about one in three high school students report persistent feelings of sadness or hopelessness and nearly one in five have seriously considered attempting suicide, highlighting a clear and growing need for accessible, age appropriate mental health education, early intervention, and behavioral health services for youth, families, and adults across Santa Fe County; and

WHEREAS, mental health issues affect parents, siblings, neighbors, friends, and co-workers, touching every part of our community and daily lives; and

WHEREAS, trauma, systemic racism, poverty, violence, substance use, displacement, and historical injustices can have a lasting impact on an individual’s mental, emotional, and physical health; and

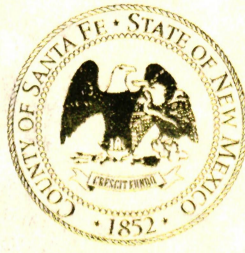
WHEREAS, Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)—including exposure to abuse, neglect, household instability, and community violence—are highly prevalent and contribute to long-term negative health, behavioral health, and socioeconomic outcomes, placing a significant and intergenerational burden on many residents of Santa Fe County; and

WHEREAS, unaddressed trauma and ACEs are strongly associated with increased risk of depression, substance use disorders, suicide, chronic disease, housing instability, and involvement with the justice system, underscoring the need for coordinated, prevention-oriented and trauma-informed systems of care; and

WHEREAS, addressing trauma and promoting mental wellness requires a whole-community, trauma-informed approach that includes culturally responsive practices, prevention, early intervention, peer support, and strengthening family and community resilience; and

WHEREAS, Santa Fe County builds on community strengths and resilience by expanding access to behavioral health services for youth, families, and adults, including the purchase of the Regional Youth Behavioral Health Center to provide developmentally appropriate, youth-centered care, and the continued investment in La Sala Crisis Services and Detox facility to support adults impacted by substance use and mental health conditions, reflecting the County’s commitment to mental health awareness, early support, and a comprehensive, community-based continuum of care that uplifts and empowers residents; and

WHEREAS, Santa Fe County acknowledges the disproportionate burden of trauma and adverse childhood experiences on Indigenous communities, communities of color, LGBTQ+ individuals, veterans, and those living in rural or underserved areas; and



WHEREAS, Santa Fe County recognizes that sustainable behavioral health transformation requires alignment across local, state, and federal systems, including Medicaid, to expand access to care, strengthen service delivery, and ensure continuity of care for vulnerable populations; and

WHEREAS, the State of New Mexico's Behavioral Health Reform and Investment Act (BHRIA) represents a historic and long-term investment in building a comprehensive, regionally coordinated behavioral health system that prioritizes prevention, treatment, recovery, and community-based support; and

WHEREAS, Santa Fe County is committed to serving as the "Accountable Entity" for Region One in the planning and coordination of behavioral health services, working in partnership with state agencies, regional collaboratives, providers, and community-based organizations to ensure behavioral health investments are driven by local needs and community input; and

WHEREAS, Santa Fe County's Behavioral Health Leadership Council (BHLC), comprised of behavioral health experts and individuals with live experience, provides critical recommendations on system priorities and strategies, informing the County's effective deployment of resources and regional planning efforts; and

WHEREAS, the integration of Medicaid-funded services, local investments, and community-based initiatives is essential to building a coordinated continuum of care that addresses behavioral health needs across the lifespan, including prevention, crisis response, treatment, and long-term recovery supports; and

WHEREAS, the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Santa Fe Affiliate and other community organizations continue to provide vital education, advocacy, and peer support services that strengthen the local behavioral health ecosystem and reduce stigma; and

WHEREAS, Santa Fe County is committed to advancing a behavioral health system that is equitable, trauma-informed, culturally responsive, and community-centered, ensuring that all residents have access to the resources they need to heal, thrive, and live with dignity; and

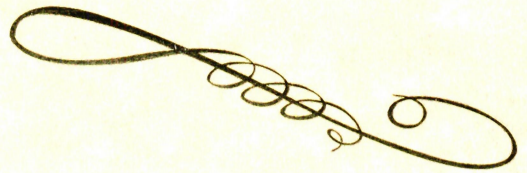
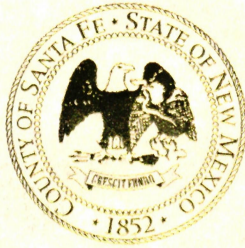
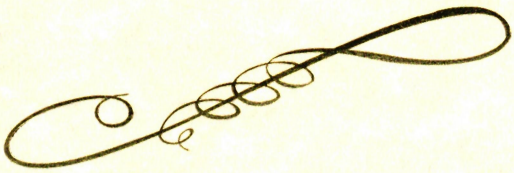
WHEREAS, the observance of Mental Health Awareness Month provides an opportunity to elevate awareness, strengthen partnerships, and reaffirm a shared commitment to advancing behavioral health systems transformation across Santa Fe County and the region.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT WE, THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF SANTA FE COUNTY, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM THE MONTH OF MAY 2026 AS:

"MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH"

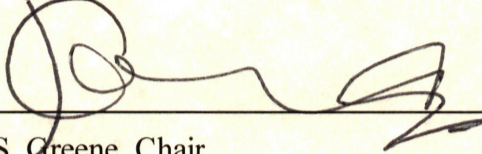
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board calls upon residents, service providers, policymakers, and community partners to:

- Advance trauma-informed, prevention-focused, and culturally responsive behavioral health practices;
- Support the effective and equitable implementation of the Behavioral Health Reform and Investment Act to address regional needs;
- Strengthen coordination across Medicaid, County, and community-based systems to improve access and continuity of care;
- Invest in early intervention strategies that reduce the long-term impacts of trauma and Adverse Childhood Experiences; and

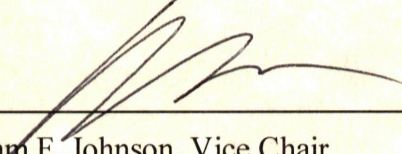


- Work collectively to build a resilient, community-centered behavioral health system that promotes healing, equity, and well-being for all residents of Santa Fe County.

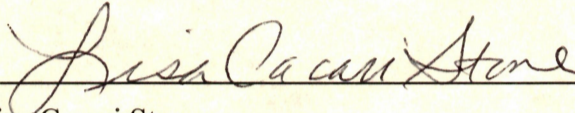
APPROVED, ADOPTED, AND PASSED ON THIS 12th DAY OF MAY, 2026.



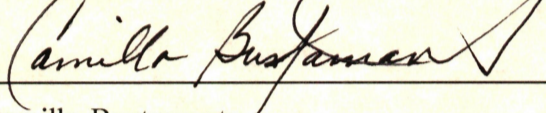
 Justin S. Greene, Chair
 Commissioner District 1



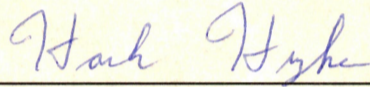
 Adam F. Johnson, Vice Chair
 Commissioner District 4



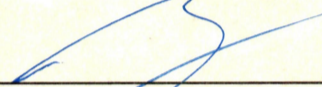
 Lisa Cacari Stone
 Commissioner District 2



 Camilla Bustamante
 Commissioner District 3

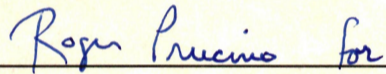


 Hank Hughes
 Commissioner District 5



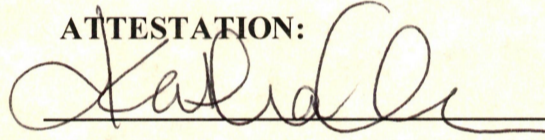
 Gregory S. Shaffer
 Santa Fe County Manager

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



 Walker Boyd
 Santa Fe County Attorney

ATTESTATION:



 Katharine E. Clark
 Santa Fe County Clerk

