

Santa Fe County Proclamation

PROCLAIMING MAY AS “MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH”

Introduced by: Commissioner Lisa Cacari Stone and Commissioner Adam Johnson

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, highlighting the need for accessible mental health education, support, and services; 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, addressing trauma and promoting mental wellness requires a whole-community approach, including trauma-informed care, culturally responsive practices, peer support, early intervention, and strong social support networks; and

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

WHEREAS, early identification and treatment can make a profound difference in successful management of mental illness and recovery; and

WHEREAS, greater public awareness about mental illnesses can help change negative attitudes and behaviors toward people with mental illnesses; and

WHEREAS, Santa Fe County is committed to creating a community where every person has access to the resources they need to thrive, heal, and live with dignity; and

WHEREAS, the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Santa Fe Affiliate, through its support, education and advocacy programs, helps to address the needs of individuals and their families impacted by mental illness and advocates for better mental health services, systems, and laws by partnering with Santa Fe community entities; and

WHEREAS, NAMI Santa Fe works to help abolish stigma through community outreach activities and sponsorships, such as Recovery Rally health fairs, public forums, NM Legislature's Behavioral health Day, NAMI's monthly speaker programs, presentations and news media; and

WHEREAS, *NAMIWalks*, the nation's largest mental health awareness and fundraising event, is being held on Saturday May 17, 2025 at Alto/Bicentennial Park, Santa Fe; and

WHEREAS, Santa Fe County's Behavioral Health Leadership Council (BHLC) is an advisory body comprised of behavioral health experts and those with lived experience whose purpose is to



provide recommendations concerning a comprehensive system of behavioral health services to better meet the needs of the residents of Santa Fe County; and

WHEREAS, Santa Fe County’s BHLC is actively working to help address service gaps in partnership with NAMI Santa Fe and other esteemed community organizations, including the National Latino Behavioral Health Association (NLBHA), which was established to fill a need for a unified national voice for Latino populations in the behavioral health arena and to bring attention to the disparities that exist in areas of access and utilization; and

WHEREAS, the important work of NAMI Santa Fe, the BHLC, NLBHA, and the many other champion organizations that serve as beacons of hope for those struggling with mental health challenges will prove essential to the implementation of SB1 and SB3, which passed during the 2025 Legislative Session and establishes a behavioral health trust fund and a regionalized approach to behavioral health reform; and

WHEREAS, the 2025 observance of Mental Health Awareness Month by the County of Santa Fe will help raise awareness of the importance of mental health and that, with proper treatment, recovery is possible.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT WE, THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF SANTA FE COUNTY, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM THE MONTH OF MAY 2025, AS:

“MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH”

APPROVED, ADOPTED, AND PASSED ON THIS 13th DAY OF MAY, 2025.

Camilla Bustamante, Chair
Commissioner District 3

Lisa Cacari Stone, Vice Chair
Commissioner District 2

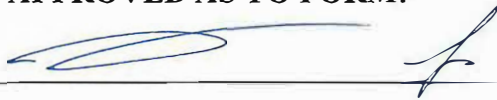
Justin S. Greene
Commissioner District 1

Adam Fulton Johnson
Commissioner District 4

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