

**WHEREAS**, mental health is an essential component of the overall health and well-being of all persons;

**WHEREAS**, mental health challenges are one of the most prevalent health conditions in Santa Clara County, known to affect one out of six adults in California, and impacting both the person experiencing mental health challenges and those persons who care for and love the person facing the challenge;

**WHEREAS**, individuals with serious mental health disorders may have difficulty functioning in everyday life and may have shorter life expectancies than the general population without access to necessary treatment and support;

**WHEREAS**, a large proportion of individuals living with mental health disorders also experience substance use problems such that an integrated approach to their recovery is required;

**WHEREAS**, proactive prevention services are an effective way to reduce the stress and burden of mental health disorders and co-occurring substance use;

**WHEREAS**, the County of Santa Clara partners with a multitude of service providers to deliver treatment for mental health disorders and co-occurring substance use disorders, promote recovery and behavioral health wellness, and support prevention efforts;

**WHEREAS**, in February 2022, the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Clara declared unaddressed behavioral health needs to be a public health crisis and resolved to expand investments in services to alleviate that crisis; and

**WHEREAS**, effective behavioral health awareness strategies work to reduce and eliminate the stigma that surrounds mental health disorders and co-occurring substance use through education and collaboration, to improve the lives of individuals and families affected by mental health problems.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Clara does hereby proclaim the week of April 11 - 17 , 2024 as**

### ***Mental Health Awareness Month***

**PASSED AND ADOPTED**, by the Board of Supervisors, County of Santa Clara, State of California on this Seventh Day of May, Two Thousand Twenty- Four, by unanimous vote.

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Sylvia Arenas  
Supervisor, District One

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Susan Ellenberg  
President, Board of Supervisors

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Cindy Chavez  
Supervisor, District Two

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Otto Lee  
Supervisor, District Three

Approved as to form and legality:

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S. Joseph Simitian  
Supervisor, District Five

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Attest: Curtis Boone,  
Acting Clerk, Board of Supervisors

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Tony LoPresti  
County Counsel