



REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

ITEM NO. 9

DATE OF MEETING: May 11, 2015

REQUESTED BY: Foster Norman, Coastal Care

SHORT TITLE: Proclamation of May as Mental Health Month.

BACKGROUND: Mental health is essential to everyone's overall physical health and emotional well-being regardless of age, gender, race, ethnicity, religion or economic status. The stigma surrounding mental illness can prevent people from seeking the medical attention they need, however, people who have mental illness do recover and lead full, productive lives. Forty-percent of those living with mental illness have been arrested one or more times, and one in three of those experiencing homelessness also suffer from severe mental illness. An estimated two-thirds of adults and young people who have mental health disorders are not receiving the help they need and nearly 30,000 American lives are lost each year to suicide and mental illness. The cost of untreated and mistreated mental illness and addictive disorders to American businesses, governments and families has grown to over \$100 billion annually. CoastalCare has educated more than 540 Crisis Intervention Team members, and more than 120 citizens in Mental Health First Aid, and is committed to increasing education and awareness to eliminate stigma. Mental Health Month is observed every May nationwide, and each business, school, government agency, healthcare provider, organization and resident can contribute to the mental health of our communities by promoting mental wellness and supporting prevention efforts.

SPECIFIC ACTION REQUESTED: To read and approve the attached Proclamation to proclaim May 2015 as Mental Health Month in Pender County, and call upon the citizens, government agencies, public and private institutions, businesses, and schools in Pender County to recommit to increasing awareness and understanding of mental illness and the need for accessible services for all people who live with mental disorders.



MAY IS MENTAL HEALTH MONTH

WHEREAS, mental health is essential to everyone's overall physical health and emotional well-being regardless of age, gender, race, ethnicity, religion or economic status; and

WHEREAS, the stigma surrounding mental illness can prevent people from seeking the medical attention they need, however, people who have mental illness do recover and lead full, productive lives,

WHEREAS, forty-percent of those living with mental illness have been arrested one or more times, and one in three of those experiencing homelessness also suffer from severe mental illness; and

WHEREAS, an estimated two-thirds of adults and young people who have mental health disorders are not receiving the help they need and nearly 30,000 American lives are lost each year to suicide and mental illness; and

WHEREAS, the cost of untreated and mistreated mental illness and addictive disorders to American businesses, governments and families has grown to over \$100 billion annually; and

WHEREAS, CoastalCare has educated more than 540 Crisis Intervention Team members, and more than 120 citizens in Mental Health First Aid, and is committed to increasing education and awareness to eliminate stigma; and

WHEREAS, Mental Health Month is observed every May nationwide, and each business, school, government agency, healthcare provider, organization and resident can contribute to the mental health of our communities by promoting mental wellness and supporting prevention efforts.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED THAT, the Pender County Board of Commissioners do hereby proclaim May 2015, as **Mental Health Month** in Pender County, and call upon the citizens, government agencies, public and private institutions, businesses, and schools in Pender County to recommit to increasing awareness and understanding of mental illness and the need for accessible services for all people who live with mental disorders.

ADOPTED THIS THE 11th DAY OF MAY, 2015.

J. David Williams, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST:

Randell Woodruff
Clerk to the Board