

Mecklenburg County

North Carolina

Proclamation

WHEREAS, the behavioral health of every citizen is essential to the emotional and economic prosperity of our families, communities, and businesses in the Mecklenburg County community and behavioral health is a key component of every individual's overall health and well-being; and

WHEREAS, mental illness affects people of all ages, races, ethnicities, and socio-economic backgrounds. symptoms of mental illness are not only common, but they are also treatable, and early intervention can save lives; and

WHEREAS, feelings of shame and fear of stigma and discrimination prevent many living with mental illness from seeking help; and

WHEREAS, awareness about mental wellness can positively transform attitudes about, and towards people with mental illness, making it easier for our citizens to seek help; and

WHEREAS, untreated mental illness leads to higher rates of unemployment, school absenteeism, arrests, incarceration, emergency department visits, hospitalizations, and suicides; and

WHEREAS, we strive to create connections in Mecklenburg County that will support mental wellness by increasing access to treatment, educating ourselves and our communities about mental wellness and mental illness, and supporting our citizens as they seek to improve their behavioral health; and

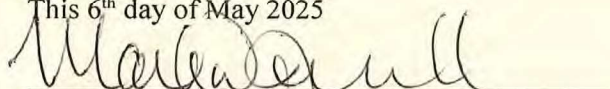
WHEREAS, we strive to improve public safety, reduce recidivism and improve the quality of life for citizens experiencing symptoms of mental illness by working collaboratively with state and local partners to increase prevention and early intervention supports, improve access to care, and strengthen coordinated care and system navigation supports through implementation of the Mecklenburg County Behavioral Health Strategic Plan

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners joins the State of North Carolina and does hereby proclaim May 2025, as

"MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH"

in Mecklenburg County and urge all citizens to join in recognizing the necessity of accessible and appropriate mental health services for all citizens.

This 6th day of May 2025


Mark D. Jerrell, Chair
Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners

