



Office of the City Manager

CONSENT CALENDAR

May 11, 2021

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Mental Health Commission

Submitted by: Councilmember Terry Taplin

Subject: Proclaiming May 2021 as Mental Health Month

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution proclaiming May 2021 as Mental Health Month in the City of Berkeley.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

None.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) has determined that persons diagnosed with severe mental illness have a life expectancy of 25 years less than members of the general public. Through their National 10 x 10 Campaign they are bringing awareness to this devastating fact and have pledged to decrease that disparity by ten years in the next ten years. In the City's Mental Health Division many mental health clients also have co-occurring addiction disorders, exacerbating existing barriers to recovery and increasing the disparity in their life expectancy.

Mental Health America, an organization working to improve the mental health of all Americans, began observance of Mental Health Month during the month of May in 1949. Their primary goal was to promote awareness of mental health conditions and mental wellness for all. Local government agencies, public and private institutions, businesses and schools join in this annual campaign to raise public awareness and understanding of mental health and illness, and to reduce the stigma associated with mental health problems and treatment. Council is requested to join in this national campaign in order to promote increased awareness of mental health and mental disabilities in the City of Berkeley.

BACKGROUND

The mental health and well-being of the City of Berkeley's residents is a critical issue that affects not only quality of life, but also the health of our communities, families, and economic stability. Mental disorders and mental health problems affect residents of all backgrounds and all stages of life, and no one is immune from its affects. The World

Health Organization (WHO) found that mental illnesses is the top ranking cause of disability in the United States and the most prevalent health problem in America today – more common than cancer, lung and heart disease combined. Nationally, one in four adults lives with a diagnosable, treatable mental health condition. According to WHO, in a typical workplace with 20 employees, four will likely develop a mental illness this year. More than three out of four employees who seek care for workplace issues or mental health problems see substantial improvement in work performance after treatment. Although mental health treatment has been shown to be effective, an estimated two-thirds of adults and young people with mental health challenges are not receiving the care they need to improve their lives significantly.

Socioeconomic inequalities and disparities in health have been widening for decades. In the United States, the data consistently show that people living in poverty, and particularly those who are members of minority communities, bear a disproportionate burden of exposure to unhealthy environments and are at greater risk for mental and behavioral health-related conditions. The Health, Housing & Community Services (HHCS) Mental Health Division has recently initiated a Health Equity Committee to assess and address inequities in access to mental health services.

The City of Berkeley Mental Health Division has been engaged in Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) planning and implementation in recent years, with the intent to identify areas of greatest need and to increase effective mental health services that promote mental health recovery. The Mental Health Division will continue to participate in a comprehensive and inclusive planning process to transform services provided by the Mental Health Division in alignment with core MHSA principles.

To strengthen the Berkeley community, the Mental Health Division also provides Mental Health First Aid training to enable community members to better assist their friends, family and neighbors who may have signs and symptoms of a mental health crisis or illness. The Mental Health First Aid Training teaches participants how to use a 5-step action plan to help connect a person in distress to appropriate professional, peer, social or self-help care.

The basis for a Citywide May is Mental Health Month proclamation is to increase awareness of the importance of mental health, and that mental health and physical health go hand-in-hand. This awareness helps to demonstrate commitment and support to Berkeley residents who have a mental illness and their families. This event also promotes hope and encourages those with mental illness to recover and become productive members of the community.

The Mental Health Division and the Berkeley/Albany Mental Health Commission are hosting a “May Is Mental Health Month” celebration entitled: Covid-19: Changes, Hope and Resiliency “Increasing Community Mental Health and Wellness. The free be held Virtual event will be on Wednesday, May 26 from 5:30-7:30pm virtually using zoom. The

program will include presentations, revealing of the New Berkeley Mental Health Clinic information sharing, entertainment, and prizes. Community achievement awards will be presented.

At its March 25, 2021 meeting, the Mental Health Commission passed the following motion:

Review Recommendation to City Council to declare “May is Mental Health Month”
M/S/C (cheema, Opton) Move the motion on page 21 the Resolution Proclaiming May 2021 is May is Mental Health Month.
PASSED

Ayes: Blanton, cheema, Fine, Opton, Prichett Noes: None; Abstentions: None; Absent: Moore, Taplin

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

There are no identifiable environmental effects or opportunities associated with the subject of this report.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

Proclaiming May as Mental Health Month offers us the opportunity to bring awareness that treatment for mental health problems is effective, that the successes of people in recovery are often remarkable, and to acknowledge men and women in the field who dedicate their lives to help people with psychiatric disabilities and other mental health problems.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

None.

CONTACT PERSON

Terry Taplin, City Councilmember, District 2, 981-7120
Jamie Works-Wright, Commission Secretary, Health, Housing & Community Services, 981-7721

Attachments:

1: Resolution PROCLAIMING MAY 2021 AS MENTAL HEALTH MONTH

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

PROCLAIMING MAY 2021 AS MENTAL HEALTH MONTH

WHEREAS, mental health is essential to everyone's overall health, productivity and well-being; and

WHEREAS, one in four American adults are affected by a mental illness; and

WHEREAS, mental health problems do not discriminate; they affect people regardless of race, creed, age, life style, or economic status; and

WHEREAS, Mental Health Recovery is possible with proper treatment and support empowering mental health consumers to lead full and productive lives; and

WHEREAS, as many as eight million Americans who have serious mental illnesses do not receive adequate treatment each year; and

WHEREAS, people who have untreated mental health issues use more general health services than those who receive mental health services when they need them; and

WHEREAS, The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) has determined that persons with severe mental illness have a life expectancy of 25 years less than members of the general public; and

WHEREAS, more than 50% of persons receiving treatment in the mental health system also have Co-Occurring Disorders compounding their barriers to recovery and increasing the disparity in their life expectancy; and

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley has made a commitment to community-based systems of mental health care in which all residents can receive high-quality and consumer-centered services; and

WHEREAS, Mental Health First Aid training is available in Berkeley to enable community members to better assist their friends, family and neighbors who may have signs and symptoms of mental illness or be in a crisis; and

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley has been actively involved in the planning and implementation of the Mental Health Services Act to increase effective mental health services that promote Mental Health Recovery in Berkeley; and

WHEREAS, we commend the Mental Health Division, for their outstanding work improving the quality of life for mentally disabled individuals in our community; and

May 11, 2021

WHEREAS, Mental Health America observes Mental Health Month every May to raise awareness and understanding of mental health and illness.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that I, Jesse Arreguin, Mayor of the City of Berkeley, do hereby proclaim May 2021 as Mental Health Month in the City of Berkeley and call upon all Berkeley citizens, government agencies, public and private institutions, businesses and schools to recommit our community to increasing awareness and understanding of mental illness and the need for appropriate and accessible services for all people with mental illnesses.

