

RESOLUTION NO. 37 OF 2019

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION

A RESOLUTION DECLARING 'NATIONAL MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH' IN CADDO PARISH, LOUISIANA

WHEREAS, Mental illness is one of the leading causes of disabilities in the United States, affecting one out of every four families and victimizing both the person with the illness and those persons who care for and love the person afflicted; and

WHEREAS, serious mental illness costs Americans approximately \$193.2 billion in lost earnings per year; and

WHEREAS, fifty-seven million Americans have a mental disorder in any given year, but fewer than 40 percent of adults living with a mental illness, and slightly more than one-half of youth 8 to 15 years of age, inclusive, with a mental illness, received mental health services in the last year; and

WHEREAS, although mental illness impacts all people, many of those in lower income communities receive less care and poorer quality of care, and often lack access to culturally competent care, thereby resulting in mental health disparities; and

WHEREAS, nearly two-thirds of all people with a diagnosable mental illness do not receive mental health treatment due to stigma, lack of community-based resources, inadequate diagnosis, or no diagnosis; and

WHEREAS, an estimated 70 percent of all youth in the juvenile justice system have at least one mental health condition, and at least 20 percent live with severe mental illness that is usually undiagnosed, misdiagnosed, untreated, or ineffectively treated, thus leaving those detained in the juvenile justice system in a vulnerable condition; and

WHEREAS, there is a need to improve public awareness of mental illness and to strengthen local and national awareness of brain diseases, so that all those with mental illness may receive adequate and appropriate treatment that will result in their becoming fully functioning members of society; and

WHEREAS, access to mental health treatment and services is of paramount importance; and

WHEREAS, there is a need to encourage primary care physicians to offer screenings, to partner with mental health care providers, to seek appropriate referrals to specialists, and to encourage timely and accurate diagnoses of mental disorders; and

WHEREAS, in observance of National Mental Health Awareness Month, the Caddo Parish Commission wishes to enhance public awareness of mental illness.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Caddo Parish Commission does hereby proclaim the month of May 2019 as:

National Mental Health Awareness Month.

in Caddo Parish, Louisiana, in an effort to focus public attention on the role and scope of Caddo Parish Government and its relationship with the health care community.

Approved as to legal form:

Parish Attorney

Date