

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA )  
 )  
COUNTY OF PICKENS )

RESOLUTION # 2024-20

A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING MAY 2024 AS MENTAL HEALTH MONTH IN PICKENS COUNTY

WHEREAS, there is a proven connection between good mental health and overall personal health; and

WHEREAS, good mental health is critical to the well-being of our families, communities, schools, and businesses; and

WHEREAS, one in five adults in the United States experienced mental illness in 2020 (52.9 million people); and

WHEREAS, people with mental illnesses recover if given the necessary services and supports in their communities; and

WHEREAS, only one out of two people with a serious form of mental illness seeks treatment for his or her mental illness; and

WHEREAS, stigma and fear of discrimination keep many who would benefit from mental health services from seeking help; and

WHEREAS, research shows that the most effective way to reduce stigma is through personal contact with someone with a mental illness; and

WHEREAS, greater public awareness about mental illnesses can change negative attitudes and behaviors toward people with mental illnesses; and

WHEREAS, Pickens County participated in the Service Members, Veterans, and their Families Crisis Intercept Mapping for Suicide Prevention through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration and continues to promote mental wellness for SMVFs and our population as a whole; and

WHEREAS, a mental health problem was identified as the circumstance in 34.7% of military suicides and in 38.9% of non-military suicides in Pickens County from 2003 to 2018 according to data from the South Carolina Violent Death Reporting System; and

WHEREAS, the celebration of Armed Forces Day on Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup> reminds us that those currently serving in our armed forces need and deserve access to mental health care; and

WHEREAS, the commemoration of Memorial Day on Monday, May 28<sup>th</sup> offers us the opportunity to give thanks for those who served our country and paid the price of freedom at the cost of their

lives, as well as the opportunity to be reminded that not all wounds are visible and many lives are lost to death by suicide as a result of mental health conditions; and

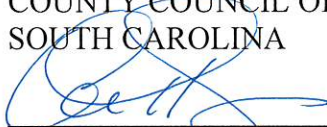
WHEREAS, no matter how challenging the times, you are not alone in South Carolina. SCDMH and the South Carolina Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services have teamed up to offer a safe, easy and free service that allows you to anonymously take a Self-Check Questionnaire and connect with a professional counselor who can offer guidance, support, and resources to help connect you with mental health and addiction services through <https://hope.connectsyou.org/>; and

WHEREAS, the green ribbon is the international symbol for mental health awareness, which can be worn to show colleagues, loved ones or simply those you walk past that you care about their mental health; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Pickens County Council does hereby proclaim May 2024 as Mental Health Month in Pickens County and calls upon the citizens, public and private institutions, businesses, and schools in Pickens County to commit our community to increasing awareness and understanding of mental health through compassion for neighbors and through wearing or displaying green ribbons. Furthermore, Council recognizes the need for appropriate and accessible services for all people with mental health conditions and encourages citizens to protect their mental health by receiving proper care.


Passed and approved, this 6 day of May, 2024.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PICKENS COUNTY,  
SOUTH CAROLINA

  
Chris Bowers, Chairman of County Council  
Pickens County, South Carolina

(SEAL)

Attest:

  
Meagan Nations, Clerk of County Council  
Pickens County, South Carolina