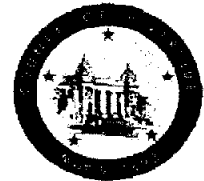


**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

444A



FROM: Department of Mental Health

SUBMITTAL DATE:
April 21, 2008

SUBJECT: Proclamation for "May is Mental Health Month"

RECOMMENDED MOTION: Move that the Board of Supervisors Proclaim May 2008 as "Mental Health Month".

BACKGROUND: Mental Health America, the National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare and their national partners observe Mental Health Month each May to raise awareness and understanding of mental health issues. Each year, following suit, the Department of Mental Health requests that May 2008, be designated as "Mental Health Month" in Riverside County to focus attention on the pervasiveness of mental illness and to raise public awareness of mental health, mental illness, and the need for appropriate, accessible services for all people with mental illness specifically in Riverside County.

Departmental Concurrence

Jerry Wengert

Jerry Wengert, Director of Mental Health

FINANCIAL DATA	Current F.Y. Total Cost:	\$	In Current Year Budget:
	Current F.Y. Net County Cost:	\$	Budget Adjustment:
	Annual Net County Cost:	\$	For Fiscal Year:

SOURCE OF FUNDS:	Positions To Be Deleted Per A-30	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Requires 4/5 Vote	<input type="checkbox"/>

C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION:

APPROVE
BY: *Debra Cournoyer*
Debra Cournoyer

County Executive Office Signature

- Dept't Recomm.: Consent Policy
- Per Exec. Ofc.: Consent Policy

Prev. Agn. Ref.: 2.6 of 05/01/07 | District: All | Agenda Number:

2.8

Proclamation 2008

WHEREAS, mental health is critical for our well-being and vitality as well as that of our families, communities and businesses; and

WHEREAS, the Presidents' New Freedom Commission declared that mental disorders and mental health problems affect people of all backgrounds and all stages of life, and no one is immune; and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization found that mental illnesses are the number one cause of disability in the United States and, collectively, are the most prevalent health problem in America today – more common than cancer, and lung and heart disease combined; and

WHEREAS, one in 10 children has a serious mental disorder that, if untreated, can lead to school failure, physical illness, substance abuse and even suicide; and

WHEREAS, the Riverside County Board of Supervisors has made a commitment to community-based mental health care for all residents; and

WHEREAS, Mental Health America, the National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare and their national partners observe Mental Health Month each May to raise awareness and understanding of mental illness; and

WHEREAS, according to the 2007 County of Riverside Homeless Count, there are more than 4,500 homeless adults and children on a given day; and

WHEREAS, according to the same count, nearly 20% of the homeless were children under the age of 18 living with a homeless parent; and

WHEREAS, according to the same count, nearly one-third reported symptoms of mental illness; and

THEREFORE, WE, the Board of Supervisors, do hereby proclaim May 2008 Mental Health Month in Riverside County. We also call upon all Riverside County citizens, government agencies, public and private institutions, businesses and schools to recommit our community to increasing awareness and understanding of mental illness, improving the array of mental health services for consumers of all ages, and expanding the supply of affordable, supportive housing for people living with mental illness.