

*Proclamation recognizing July 2023 as
National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month*

Whereas mental health conditions do not discriminate based on race, color, gender or identity. Anyone can experience the challenges of mental illness regardless of their background. However, background and identity can make access to mental health treatment much more difficult; and

Whereas established in 2008, National Minority Mental Health Month, also known as Bebe Moore Campbell National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month, is observed in July as a nationwide effort developed by Mental Health America; and

Whereas developed to honor the efforts of Bebe Moore Campbell, an American author, journalist, teacher, and mental health advocate, who brought awareness to the unique mental health struggles of racial and ethnic minority communities through her personal experiences with a family member's mental illness; and

Whereas racial and ethnic minorities often suffer from poor mental health outcomes due to multiple factors, including lack of access to quality mental health care services, cultural stigma surrounding mental health care, discrimination, and overall lack of awareness about mental health; and

Whereas according to the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services in 2021, it is estimated that only 36 percent of Hispanic/Latino adults with any mental illness were treated, compared to 52 percent of non-Hispanic white adults; and

Whereas despite advances in research and health impartiality, disparities in mental health care continue to exist. National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month is a reminder to the community that we need to make mental health treatment more accessible for diverse populations by improving access to services and creating public awareness of mental illness.

Now, therefore, be it proclaimed that the Hidalgo County Commissioners Court does hereby declare the month of July as National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month, and supports those who battle with mental health and encourage all county residents to learn more about providing culturally competent care and improving access to health care information for minorities.

Approved this 11th day of July 2023.

RICHARD F. CORTEZ
County Judge

DAVID L. FUENTES
County Commissioner, Pct. 1

EDUARDO "EDDIE" CANTU
County Commissioner, Pct. 2

EVERARDO "EVER" VILLARREAL
County Commissioner, Pct. 3

ELLIE TORRES
County Commissioner, Pct. 4

Attest: _____
ARTURO GUAJARDO, JR.
County Clerk