

**Yolo County
Board of Supervisors**

Resolution No. 22-65

Declaring May 2022 Mental Health Awareness Month in Yolo County

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

WHEREAS, mental illnesses are real and prevalent in our nation, and half of us will have a mental health diagnosis at some point in our lives; and

WHEREAS, during the COVID-19 pandemic, additional stress and social isolation have contributed to an increase in mental health awareness and the need to make everyone feel comfortable in seeking help and support to manage these times; and

WHEREAS, engaging in prevention, early identification and early intervention are as effective ways to reduce the burden of mental illnesses as they are to reduce the burden of other chronic conditions; and

WHEREAS, each business, school, government agency, health care provider, organization and citizen share the burden of mental health problems and has a responsibility to promote mental wellness and support prevention and treatment efforts; and

WHEREAS, since 2016 Yolo County has placed particular emphasis on offering programs that help to reduce the number of incarcerated people who have a serious mental illness in our local jails; and

WHEREAS, Yolo County has been recognized as a Stepping Up Innovator County by the National Association of Counties, The Council of State Governments Justice Center and the American Psychiatric Association Foundations for our expertise in using data to drive decisions and better outcomes on the number of incarcerated people who have serious mental illnesses; and

WHEREAS, Yolo County is one of only five counties in California to receive this designation as a Stepping Up Innovator; and

WHEREAS, Yolo County is ensuring nearly 6,000 bookings into jail are screened for mental illnesses every year, and regular reporting on this population with the goals of reducing the number of individuals incarcerated with serious mental illness, shortening the length of stay of people with mental illness in jail, increasing the percentage of people with mental illness in jail who are connected to the correct support and services and lowering the rate of recidivism; and

WHEREAS, Yolo County has taken a collaborative approach to mapping system and programs, as well as prioritizing the development of programs that can meet the needs of people with mental illness at multiple intercepts of the justice and mental health system; and

WHEREAS, Yolo County would like to recognize the contributions of the following individuals for their work at their respective agencies during 2017 and 2018 as they collaborated to create the Yolo County Sequential Intercept Map (SIM): Lieutenant Tom Waltz, Retired Davis Police Department; Tracie Olson, Yolo County Public Defender; Jonathan Raven and Christopher Bulkeley, Yolo County District Attorney's Office; Stephen Svetich, Yolo County Probation Department; Sandra Sigrist, Yolo County Health and Human Services Agency; Sara Gavin, CommuniCare Health Centers; William Ferrier, Yolo County District Attorney's Office; Mashan Wolfe, Yolo County Sheriff's Department; and

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WHEREAS, Yolo County has used integrated data across justice, behavioral health, and housing systems to better inform program design, evaluation, and resource development with the goal of reducing the 50% baseline rate of people entering the jail with behavioral health needs and staying an average of 16 days, as well as the subset of 25% of bookings with a serious mental illness staying an average of 36 days.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Yolo County Board of Supervisors hereby declares the month of May 2022 as Mental Health Awareness Month in Yolo County and calls upon all citizens, government agencies, public and private institutions, businesses and schools to recommit our community to increasing awareness and understanding of mental health, the steps our citizens can take to protect their mental health and the need for appropriate and accessible services for all people with mental illnesses at all stages.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 24th day of May, 2022, by the following vote:

AYES: Villegas, Saylor, Sandy, Provenza, Barajas.

Angel Barajas, Chair
Yolo County Board of Supervisors