



Health and Human Services Agency

Ryan Gruver, MPA, Agency Director
Ariel Lovett, MNA, Chief Fiscal Administrative Officer
Cari Yardley, Psy.D., Acting Behavioral Health Director
Paul Johnson, JD, Child Support
Tyler Barrington, Housing & Community Services
Jeff Goldman, MPA, Probation
Thomas Angell, Acting Public Defender
Kathy Cahill, MPH, Public Health
Rachel Peña, LCSW, Social Services

950 Maidu Ave.
Nevada City, CA 95959

Phone: (530) 265-1627
Fax: (530) 265-2295

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT

NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Board Agenda Memo

MEETING DATE: May 19, 2026

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Cari Yardley, Acting Behavioral Health Director

SUBJECT: Resolution proclaiming May 2026 as “Mental Health Awareness Month” in Nevada County.

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt the resolution proclaiming May 2026 as “Mental Health Awareness Month” in Nevada County, California.

FUNDING: Not Applicable

BACKGROUND: Each county in California is required to have a Mental Health Advisory Board as defined in Welfare and Institutions Code section 5604.2. Members of the Advisory Board are appointed by the Board of Supervisors and are meant to provide community oversight and input to the Behavioral Health Department. One of the defined duties of the Advisory Board is to provide an annual update to the Board of Supervisors regarding activities, successes and challenges from the year.

This informational presentation will address current composition of the Advisory Board, current year activities of the Advisory Board, and feedback on needs and performance of the Behavioral Health Department from this year.

In addition to this presentation, the Nevada County Behavioral Health Department is interested in having the Board of Supervisors proclaim May as “Mental Health Awareness Month” in Nevada County. Every day, millions of people face stigma related to mental illness, causing many to live with their mental health challenges for years without help. Each May, Mental Health Awareness Month provides the opportunity for everyone to come together to illuminate mental health awareness in an effort to stop the stigma. Bringing forth this awareness is crucial to helping people reach out for the assistance they deserve.

Nearly half of the population will experience some type of mental health challenge over the

course of their lives, and one out of twenty may develop a serious mental illness. For many of these individuals, the stigma around identifying their mental health challenge keeps them from seeking care, which in turn can exacerbate their suffering and the impacts of their illness. Mental health is just as important as physical health and identifying our mental health needs should be just as comfortable as going to a physical health care doctor. Celebrating Mental Health Awareness Month reminds our community that we all need to take care of our mental health.

We respectfully request Board approval to proceed as outlined in the resolution and proclaim May 2026 as “Mental Health Awareness Month” in Nevada County, California.

Approved by: Cari Yardley, Acting Behavioral Health Director