



Health and Human Services Agency

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BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT

NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Board Agenda Memo

MEETING DATE: May 13, 2025

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Phebe Bell, Behavioral Health Director

SUBJECT: Resolution proclaiming May 2025 as “Mental Health Awareness Month” in Nevada County and acceptance of presentation on activities of the Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Advisory Board.

RECOMMENDATION: Accept Informational Presentation – 15 minutes estimated duration and adopt Resolution

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 2025 as “Mental Health Awareness Month” in Nevada County, California.

Approved by: Phebe Bell, Behavioral Health Director