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Subject Files - FE009 (Proclamations)

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Colleen Moran

1216013

FE009

**Executive Office of The President
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Collection Code: **SECLOG**

Staff Name:

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Correspondent:

Subject/Description: **PROCLAMATION #9433, NATIONAL MENTAL HEALTH
AWARENESS MONTH, 2016**

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NATIONAL MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH, 2016

#9433

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION

Nearly 44 million American adults, and millions of children, experience mental health conditions each year, including depression, anxiety, bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, and post-traumatic stress. Although we have made progress expanding mental health coverage and elevating the conversation about mental health, too many people still do not get the help they need. Our Nation is founded on the belief that we must look out for one another -- and whether it affects our family members, friends, co-workers, or those unknown to us -- we do a service for each other when we reach out and help those struggling with mental health issues. This month, we renew our commitment to ridding our society of the stigma associated with mental illness, encourage those living with mental health conditions to get the help they need, and reaffirm our pledge to ensure those who need help have access to the support, acceptance, and resources they deserve.

In the last 7 years, our country has made extraordinary progress in expanding mental health coverage for more people across America. The Affordable Care Act prohibits insurance companies from discriminating against people based on pre-existing conditions, requires coverage of mental health and substance use disorder services in individual and small group markets, and expands mental health and substance use disorder parity policies, which are estimated to help more than 60 million Americans. Nearly 15 million more Americans have gained Medicaid coverage since October 2013, significantly improving access to mental health care. And because of more

Approved/Signed/Released: 4/28/16

To Archives: 4/29/16

than \$100 million in funding from the Affordable Care Act, community health centers have expanded behavioral health services for nearly 900,000 people nationwide over the past 2 years. Still, far too few Americans experiencing mental illnesses do not receive the care and treatment they need. That is why my most recent Budget proposal includes a new half-billion dollar investment to improve access to mental health care, engage individuals with serious mental illness in care, and help ensure behavioral health care systems work for everyone.

Our Nation has made strong advances in improving prevention, increasing early intervention, and expanding treatment of mental illnesses. Earlier this year, I established a Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Parity Task Force, which aims to ensure that coverage for mental health benefits is comparable to coverage for medical and surgical care, improve understanding of the requirements of the law, and expand compliance with it. Mental health should be treated as part of a person's overall health, and we must ensure individuals living with mental health conditions can get the treatment they need. My Administration also continues to invest in science and research through the BRAIN initiative to enhance our understanding of the complexities of the human brain and to make it easier to diagnose and treat mental health disorders early.

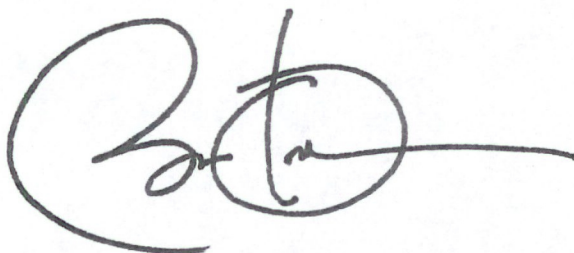
One of our most profound obligations as a Nation is to support the men and women in uniform who return home and continue fighting battles against mental illness. Last year, I signed the Clay Hunt SAV Act, which fills critical gaps in serving veterans with post-traumatic stress and other illnesses, increases peer support and outreach, and recruits

more talented individuals to work on mental health issues at the Department of Veterans Affairs. This law will make it easier for veterans to get the care they need when they need it. All Americans, including service members, can get immediate assistance by calling the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-TALK or by calling 1-800-662-HELP.

During National Mental Health Awareness Month, we recognize those Americans who live with mental illness and substance use disorders, and we pledge solidarity with their families who need our support as well. Let us strive to ensure people living with mental health conditions know that they are not alone, that hope exists, and that the possibility of healing and thriving is real. Together, we can help everyone get the support they need to recover as they continue along the journey to get well.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim May 2016 as National Mental Health Awareness Month. I call upon citizens, government agencies, organizations, health care providers, and research institutions to raise mental health awareness and continue helping Americans live longer, healthier lives.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-eighth day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand sixteen, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and fortieth.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Barack Obama", with a large circular flourish on the left and a horizontal line extending to the right.

Pate, Brian

From: Gurman, Jesse
Sent: Thursday, April 28, 2016 6:39 PM
To: Degen, Greg; Walsh, Joani
Cc: DL-WHO-Exec Clerk; Staff Secretary
Subject: RE: Proclamation - Mental Health Awareness Month

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

OK to AP

Thanks,

Jesse

-----Original Message-----

From: Degen, Greg R. EOP/WHO
Sent: Thursday, April 28, 2016 6:21 PM
To: Walsh, Joani L. EOP/WHO <joan_l_walsh@who.eop.gov>; Gurman, Jesse A. EOP/WHO <jesse_a_gurman@who.eop.gov>
Cc: DL-WHO-Exec Clerk <DL-WHO-ExecClerk@who.eop.gov>; FN-WHO-Staff Secretary <FN-WHO-StaffSecretary@who.eop.gov>
Subject: FW: Proclamation - Mental Health Awareness Month

Ready for your OK to AP

-----Original Message-----

From: Williams, Sherman A. [mailto:Sherman_A._Williams@who.eop.gov]
Sent: Thursday, April 28, 2016 5:56 PM
To: Degen, Greg R. EOP/WHO <gregory_r_degen@who.eop.gov>
Cc: DL-WHO-Staff Secretary <DL-WHO-StaffSecretary@dsr.eop.gov>; DL-WHO-Exec Clerk <DL-WHO-ExecClerk@who.eop.gov>
Subject: Proclamation - Mental Health Awareness Month

Greg,

Here's the Mental Health Awareness proclamation for final review/approval.

Thanks

Pate, Brian

From: Degen, Greg
Sent: Thursday, April 28, 2016 5:21 PM
To: DL-WHO-Exec Clerk
Cc: Staff Secretary
Subject: Mental Health Awareness Month
Attachments: Merged edits_National Mental Health Awareness Month, 2016.docx

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hi Clerks,

Attached is Mental Health Awareness Month.

Thanks!

Greg

National Mental Health Awareness Month, 2016

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Nearly 44 million American adults, and millions of children, experience mental health conditions each year, including depression, anxiety, bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, and post-traumatic stress. Although we have made progress expanding mental health coverage and elevating the conversation about mental health, too many people still do not get the help they need. Our Nation is founded on the belief that we must look out for one another—and whether it affects our family members, friends, coworkers, or those unknown to us—we do a service for each other when we reach out and help those struggling with mental health issues. This month, we renew our commitment to ridding our society of the stigma associated with mental illness, encourage those living with mental health conditions to get the help they need, and reaffirm our pledge to ensure those who need help have access to the support, acceptance, and resources they deserve.

In the last 7 years, our country has made extraordinary progress in expanding mental health coverage for more people across America. The Affordable Care Act prohibits insurance companies from discriminating against people based on pre-existing conditions, requires coverage of mental health and substance use disorder services in individual and small group markets, and expands mental health and substance use disorder parity policies, which are estimated to help more than 60 million Americans. Nearly 15 million more Americans have gained Medicaid coverage since October 2013, significantly improving access to mental health care. And because of more than \$100 million in funding from the Affordable Care Act, community health centers have expanded behavioral health services for nearly 900,000 people nationwide over the past 2 years. Still, far too few Americans experiencing mental illnesses do not receive the care and treatment they need. That is why my most recent Budget proposal includes a new half-billion dollar investment to improve access to mental health care, engage individuals with serious mental illness in care, and help ensure behavioral health care systems work for everyone.

Our Nation has made strong advances in improving prevention, increasing early intervention, and expanding treatment of mental illnesses. Earlier this year, I established a Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Parity Task Force, which aims to ensure that coverage for mental health benefits is comparable to coverage for medical and surgical care, improve understanding of the requirements of the law, and expand compliance with it. Mental health should be treated as part of a person's overall health, and we must ensure individuals living with mental health conditions can get the treatment they need. My Administration also continues to invest in science and research through the BRAIN initiative to enhance our understanding of the complexities of the human brain and to make it easier to diagnose and treat mental health disorders early.

One of our most profound obligations as a Nation is to support the men and women in uniform who return home and continue fighting battles against mental illness. Last year, I signed the Clay Hunt SAV Act, which fills critical gaps in serving veterans with post-traumatic stress and other illnesses, increases peer support and outreach, and recruits more talented individuals to work on mental health issues at the Department of Veterans Affairs. This law will make it easier for veterans to get the care they need when they need it. All Americans, including service members, can get immediate assistance by calling the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-TALK or by calling 1-800-662-HELP.

During National Mental Health Awareness Month, we recognize those Americans who live with mental illness and substance use disorders, and we pledge solidarity with their families who need our support as well. Let us strive to ensure people living with mental health conditions know that they are not alone, that hope exists, and that the possibility of healing and thriving is real. Together, we can help everyone get the support they need to recover as they continue along the journey to get well.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim May 2016 as National Mental Health Awareness Month. I call upon citizens, government agencies, organizations, health care providers, and research institutions to raise mental health awareness and continue helping Americans live longer, healthier lives.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this ____ day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand sixteen, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and fortieth.

Pate, Brian

From: Degen, Greg
Sent: Friday, April 22, 2016 1:20 PM
To: Brandon, Tyler; Dillon, Molly; McCombs, Claire; Ruvin, Hallie; Seidman, David; Evans, Karen; Worthy, Whitney; Corbin-Johnson, Shavonna; Gainedi, Sriramy; Morrow, Maggie; Brooks, Jordan A.; Berlenbach, Sarah; Yudelson, Alex; Sharma, Vidur
Cc: Staff Secretary; DL-WHO-Exec Clerk; DL-WHO-Proclamations
Subject: Proclamation for Review: Mental Health Awareness Month, 2016 - Please provide comments by 2 PM on Monday (4/25)
Attachments: National Mental Health Awareness Month, 2016 (clean).docx; ATT00001.htm; National Mental Health Awareness Month, 2016 (sourced).docx; ATT00002.htm; Routing and Background_National Mental Health Awareness Month, 2016.docx; ATT00003.htm
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hi all,

Attached is a proposed draft of the proclamation for Mental Health Awareness Month, 2016.

Please review and comment on this proclamation by 2 PM on Monday (4/25). Please make edits/comments to the version without citations.

Thanks,
Greg

Greg Degen
(202) 456-2476<tel:(202)%20456-2476>
Office of the Staff Secretary

National Mental Health Awareness Month, 2016

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Nearly 45 million American adults, and millions of children, experience mental health conditions each year, including depression, anxiety, bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, or post-traumatic stress. Although we have made progress expanding mental health coverage and elevating the conversation about mental health, too many still suffer in silence. Our Nation is founded on the belief that we must look out for one another—and whether it affects our family members, friends, coworkers, or those unknown to us—we do a disservice to each other when we whisper about mental health. This month, we renew our commitment to ridding our society of the stigma associated with mental illness, encourage those living with mental health conditions to get the help they need, and reaffirm our pledge to ensure those struggling have access to the support and resources they deserve.

My Administration is dedicated to expanding mental health care for more Americans, and to making it easier for all people to seek help. Because of the protections provided in the Affordable Care Act, insurance companies can no longer discriminate against people with pre-existing conditions, including mental illnesses. The Act has also funded the extension of behavioral health services through community health centers to hundreds of thousands of people across America. Still, far too few Americans experiencing mental illnesses receive the care and treatment they need. That is why my most recent Budget proposal includes a new half-billion dollar investment to engage individuals with serious mental illness—this funding will improve access to care and help ensure behavioral health care systems work for everyone.

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One of our most profound obligations as a Nation is to lift the lives of our men and women in uniform who return home and must continue fighting battles against mental illness. Last year, I signed the Clay Hunt SAV Act, which fills critical gaps in serving veterans with post-traumatic stress and other illnesses, increases peer support and outreach, and recruits more talented individuals to work at the Department of Veterans Affairs on issues of mental health. This law will make it easier for veterans to find the care they need when they need it. All Americans, including service members, can get immediate assistance by calling the National

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By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

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Commented [WC1]: As titled in 2015, 2014, and 2013

Commented [WC2]: For release on 4/29 in observance of May

Commented [WCSE3]: POTUS Remarks, 6/3/13: "The truth is, in any given year, one in five adults experience a mental illness – one in five. Forty-five million Americans suffer from things like depression or anxiety, schizophrenia or PTSD."

NIH: "In 2014, there were an estimated 43.6 million adults aged 18 or older in the United States with [any mental illness] in the past year."

Commented [WCSE4]: CDC: "Millions of American children live with depression, anxiety, ADHD, autism spectrum disorders, Tourette syndrome or a host of other mental health issues."

Commented [WCSE5]: Examples same as included in 2015 and 2014.

Commented [WCSE6]: Fact Sheet, 1/4/16: "The Administration is committed to improving care for Americans experiencing mental health issues. In the last seven years, our country has made extraordinary prog ... [1]

Commented [WCSE7]: POTUS Remarks, 6/3/13: "T ... [2]

Commented [WCSE8]: POTUS Remarks, 6/3/13: "A ... [3]

Commented [WCSE9]: POTUS Remarks, 6/3/13: "Y ... [4]

Commented [WCSE10]: POTUS Remarks, 6/3/13: " ... [5]

Commented [WCSE11]: POTUS Remarks, 6/3/13: " ... [6]

Commented [WCSE12]: POTUS Remarks, 6/3/13: " ... [7]

Commented [WCSE13]: Fact Sheet, 1/4/16: "This ... [8]

Commented [WCSE14]: Fact Sheet, 1/4/16: "And t ... [9]

Commented [WCSE15]: POTUS Remarks, 6/3/13: ... [10]

Commented [WCSE16]: Capitalized per GPO pg. 48

Commented [WCSE17]: FY17 Budget: "The Budge ... [11]

Commented [WCSE18]: POTUS Memo, 3/29/16: " ... [12]

Commented [WCSE19]: POTUS Memo, 3/29/16: " ... [13]

Commented [WCSE20]: 2014: "We too often thin ... [14]

Commented [WCSE21]: POTUS Remarks, 6/3/13: ... [15]

Commented [WCSE22]: As referenced last year

Commented [WCSE23]: FY17 Budget: "The Budge ... [16]

Commented [WCSE24]: POTUS Remarks, 6/3/13: ... [17]

Commented [WCSE25]: As referenced last year

Commented [WCSE26]: POTUS Remarks, 2/12/15 ... [18]

Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-TALK, and additional immediate assistance can be provided by calling 1-800-662-HELP.

During National Mental Health Awareness Month, we recognize those who suffer from mental illness, and we pledge solidarity with their families who need our support as well. Let us strive to ensure people living with mental health conditions know that they are not alone, that hope exists, and that the possibility of healing and thriving is real. Together, we can help everyone get the support they need as they continue along the journey to get well.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim May 2016 as National Mental Health Awareness Month. I call upon citizens, government agencies, organizations, health care providers, and research institutions to raise mental health awareness and continue helping Americans live longer, healthier lives.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this ____ day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand sixteen, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and fortieth.

Commented [WCSE27]: Name and number confirmed

Commented [WCSE28]: Last year: "If you or someone you know is in need of immediate assistance, call 1-800-662-HELP. The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline also offers immediate assistance for all Americans, including service members and veterans, at 1-800-273-TALK."

Commented [WCSE29]: Confirmed: "SAMHSA's National Helpline 1-800-662-HELP."

Commented [WCSE30]: POTUS Remarks, 6/3/13: "Remember the family members who shoulder their own burdens and need our support as well."

Commented [WCSE31]: POTUS Remarks, 6/3/13: "And more than anything, let people who are suffering in silence know that recovery is possible. They're not alone. There's hope. There's possibility. And that's what all of you represent with the extraordinary advocacy and work that you've already done. So thank you all for being here. Let's do everything we can to help our fellow Americans heal and thrive."

Commented [WCSE32]: POTUS Remarks, 6/3/13: "You're surrounded by people who care about you and who will support you on the journey to get well."

Commented [WC33]: Verbatim every year:
NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim May 2015 as National Mental Health Awareness Month. I call upon citizens, government agencies, organizations, health care providers, and research institutions to raise mental health awareness and continue helping Americans live longer, healthier lives.

Commented [WC34]: correct

Commented [WC35]: correct

Commented [WC36]: correct

Page 1: [1] Commented Wild, Clay S. EOP/WHO 4/22/2016 10:23:00 AM

Fact Sheet, 1/4/16: "The Administration is committed to improving care for Americans experiencing mental health issues. In the last seven years, our country has made extraordinary progress in expanding mental health coverage for millions of Americans."

Page 1: [2] Commented Wild, Clay S. EOP/WHO 4/22/2016 10:07:00 AM

POTUS Remarks, 6/3/13: "The main goal of this conference is not to start a conversation – so many of you have spent decades waging long and lonely battles to be heard. Instead, it's about elevating that conversation to a national level and bringing mental illness out of the shadows."

2014: "Despite great strides in our understanding of mental illness and vast improvement in the dialogue surrounding it..."

Page 1: [3] Commented Wild, Clay S. EOP/WHO 4/22/2016 9:31:00 AM

POTUS Remarks, 6/3/13: "All of you have shown an extraordinary commitment to what is a critical goal, and that is to make sure that people aren't suffering in silence..."

Page 1: [4] Commented Wild, Clay S. EOP/WHO 4/22/2016 9:58:00 AM

POTUS Remarks, 6/3/13: "You see commercials on TV about a whole array of physical health issues, some of them very personal. And yet, we whisper about mental health issues and avoid asking too many questions."

Page 1: [5] Commented Wild, Clay S. EOP/WHO 4/22/2016 9:59:00 AM

POTUS Remarks, 6/3/13: "The brain is a body part too; we just know less about it. And there should be no shame in discussing or seeking help for treatable illnesses that affect too many people that we love. We've got to get rid of that embarrassment; we've got to get rid of that stigma."

Page 1: [6] Commented Wild, Clay S. EOP/WHO 4/22/2016 10:01:00 AM

POTUS Remarks, 6/3/13: "Too many Americans who struggle with mental health illnesses are still suffering in silence rather than seeking help..."

Page 1: [7] Commented Wild, Clay S. EOP/WHO 4/22/2016 10:15:00 AM

POTUS Remarks, 6/3/13: "First, we've got to do a better job recognizing mental health issues in our children, and making it easier for Americans of all ages to seek help."

Page 1: [8] Commented Wild, Clay S. EOP/WHO 4/22/2016 12:54:00 PM

Fact Sheet, 1/4/16: "This includes the Affordable Care Act's end to insurance company discrimination based on pre-existing conditions, required coverage of mental health and substance use disorder services in the individual and small group markets, and an expansion of mental health and substance use disorder parity policies, all of which are estimated to help more than 60 million Americans."

Page 1: [9] Commented Wild, Clay S. EOP/WHO 4/22/2016 10:53:00 AM

Fact Sheet, 1/4/16: "And thanks to more than \$100 million in funding from the Affordable Care Act, community health centers have expanded behavioral health services for nearly 900,000 people nationwide over the past two years."

Page 1: [10] Commented Wild, Clay S. EOP/WHO 4/22/2016 11:01:00 AM

POTUS Remarks, 6/3/13: "Today, less than 40 percent of people with mental illness receive treatment – less than 40 percent. Even though three-quarters of mental illnesses emerge by the end of – by the age of 24, only about half of children with mental health problems receive treatment."

Page 1: [11] Commented Wild, Clay S. EOP/WHO 4/22/2016 11:08:00 AM

FY17 Budget: "The Budget includes \$500 million in new mandatory funding over two years to help engage individuals with serious mental illness in care, improve access to care by increasing service capacity and the behavioral health workforce, and ensure that behavioral health care systems work for everyone."

Page 1: [12] Commented Wild, Clay S. EOP/WHO 4/22/2016 12:05:00 PM

POTUS Memo, 3/29/16: "My Administration has made behavioral health a priority and taken a number of steps to improve the prevention, early intervention, and treatment of mental health and substance use disorders."

Page 1: [13] Commented Wild, Clay S. EOP/WHO 4/22/2016 12:06:00 PM

POTUS Memo, 3/29/16: "To realize the promise of coverage expansion and parity protections in helping individuals with mental health and substance use disorder, executive department and agencies need to work together to ensure that Americans are benefiting from the Federal parity protections the law intends. To that end, I hereby direct the following:

Section 1) **Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Parity Task Force**. There is established an interagency Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Parity Task Force, which will identify and promote best practices for executive departments and agencies, as well as State agencies, to better ensure compliance with an implementation of requirements related to mental health and substance use disorder parity, and determine areas that would benefit from further guidance."

Page 1: [14] Commented Wild, Clay S. EOP/WHO 4/22/2016 12:09:00 PM

2014: "We too often think about mental health differently from other forms of health."

Page 1: [15] Commented Wild, Clay S. EOP/WHO 4/22/2016 12:10:00 PM

POTUS Remarks, 6/3/13: "It's not enough to help more Americans seek treatment – we also have to make sure that the treatment is there when they're ready to seek it."

Page 1: [16] Commented Wild, Clay S. EOP/WHO 4/22/2016 12:20:00 PM

FY17 Budget: "The Budget provides increased resources for the President's Precision Medicine Initiative and continues support for the Brain Research through Advancing Innovative Neuroethologies (BRAIN) initiative, launched by the President in 2013, which is helping to revolutionize our understanding of the human brain."

POTUS Remarks, 6/3/13: "We're also investing in science and basic research to make it easier to diagnose and treat disease early."

Page 1: [17] Commented Wild, Clay S. EOP/WHO 4/22/2016 12:21:00 PM

POTUS Remarks, 6/3/13: "We see it in veterans who come home from the battlefield with the invisible wounds of war, but who feel somehow that seeking treatment is a sign of weakness when in fact it's a sign of strength. We

see it in parents who would do anything for their kids, but who often fight their mental health battle alone — afraid that reaching out would somehow reflect badly on them.”

Page 1: [18] Commented

Wild, Clay S. EOP/WHO

4/22/2016 12:22:00 PM

POTUS Remarks, 2/12/15: “And thanks to their tireless efforts -- and we are particularly grateful to Clay’s family being able to transform grief into action -- today I will sign the Clay Hunt SAV Act into law. And SAV stands for Suicide Prevention for American Veterans. It helps fill critical gaps in serving veterans with post-traumatic stress and other illnesses. It increases peer support and outreach to service members transitioning to civilian life. It recruits talented psychiatry students to work at the VA after graduation. It makes it easier for veterans to find the care they need when they need it. And it includes strict accountability measures so we can track and continually improve these efforts as we learn more.”

ROUTING

National Mental Health Awareness Month, 2016

5/1/2016

Agency-HHS

	Name	Title	Agency ; Bureau ; Office, etc.	Phone Number	E-mail Address	Date Completed
Drafters	Gary Blau	Chief, Child, Adolescent & Family Branch	SAMHSA – Center for Mental Health Services	240- 276- 1921	Gary.blau@samhsa.hhs.gov	3/9/16
	Chris Marshall	Special Assistant to the Director of CMHS	SAMHSA – Center for Mental Health Services	240- 276- 1947	Chris.marshall@samhsa.hhs.gov	3/9/16
Approver	Kana Enomoto	Acting Administrator	SAMHSA	240- 276- 2000	Kana.enomoto@samhsa.hhs.gov	3/15/16

EOP- Internal Draft

Role	Name	Title	Office	Completed
Drafter	Clay Wild	Associate Director	OPC	4/22

BACKGROUND

National Mental Health Awareness Month, 2016

5/1/2016

History

This Proclamation has been issued on the President's own initiative since 2013.

Original Department of Health and Human Services Draft

Our Nation has made great strides in understanding and supporting mental health. Communities across America have taken the bold step to discuss, plan, and take action on mental health to improve the health and wellbeing of our loved ones, friends, and neighbors. Individuals with mental health conditions and family members are more open about their needs. We know that mental health is essential to overall health and that recovery from these conditions is attainable. There is reason to hope, but we must do more to ensure that the nearly one in five Americans who have a mental health condition have access to the treatment and supports necessary for recovery. Unfortunately, only 38 percent of American adults with a mental illness receive treatment and even fewer children with these conditions access treatment.

The science is clear - children, youth, and adults with mental disorders improve with access to prevention services, treatment, and recovery supports. And with these supports, Americans with mental health conditions will improve their health and wellness and share in the opportunities for all Americans to strive to achieve their full potential.

My Administration continues to prioritize mental health and support those individuals on their courageous journey of healing. As a result of the National Dialogue on Mental Health, which the White House launched in 2013, over 250 cities and communities have held community conversations on mental health and developed action plans. Innovative social media and texting strategies such as "Text, Talk, Act" have been launched to facilitate conversations for youth and young adults. As a result of all of these activities, hundreds of thousands of Americans have joined the conversation about mental health, treatment, and recovery.

In FY 2017, my Administration proposes to go even further by increasing mental health funding by a half a billion dollars. These funds will enhance evidence-based early intervention services for Americans with the most serious mental illnesses, increased efforts for suicide prevention, additional strategies to respond to behavioral health crises for American Indian populations, workforce development, and enhancements to Section 223 demonstrations. Additionally, the budget reflects priorities to enhance crisis systems, develop assisted outpatient treatment strategies, and early intervention to prevent onset of first episode psychosis.

The First Lady of the United States has taken on this issue and led the way to address barriers to treatment, supports, and recovery. She helped launch the Campaign to Change Direction by appearing in events and television public service announcements encouraging

citizens across the country to learn about the five signs of emotional distress and to step up and provide support.

On May 5, 2016, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration will commemorate National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day with over 150 organizations and 1,100 communities highlighting the theme "Finding Help, Finding Hope." During the National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day national event in Washington, D.C., which will be telecast live on the evening of May 5th, families and youth throughout the country, will have an opportunity to participate in an interactive discussion about their experiences and what we can do to help.

Thanks to the openness and efforts of the American people, our mental health providers, researchers, peers, and family members, we are clearly making progress. I encourage all of us during Mental Health Awareness Month to recommit ourselves to the messages and acts of inclusion, acceptance, and support for the people we love and for the health and wellbeing of our Nation. For any individuals who may be in crisis, there is immediate help and support available. Please call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-TALK.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim May 2016 as National Mental Health Awareness Month. I call upon citizens, government agencies, organizations, healthcare providers, and research institutions to raise mental health awareness and continue helping Americans live longer, healthier lives.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this XX day of XX, in the year of our Lord two thousand sixteen, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and fortieth.