

RESOLUTION

SOUTH ORANGE COUNTY
COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

May 22, 2023

Mental Health Awareness Month

W **HEREAS**, nearly one in five adults and one in five adolescents in the United States live with a mental illness; and

W **HEREAS**, Mental health impacts a person's emotional, social, environmental, financial and overall well-being, with significant disparities among racially and ethnically diverse communities; and

W **HEREAS**, suicide is now the second leading cause of death for 15-to-24-year-olds, with teenagers experiencing a 17.3 percent increase in the use of anxiety medications since 2010; and

W **HEREAS**, one third of the United States population lives in a county designated as a mental health professional shortage area; and

W **HEREAS**, an estimated 44 percent of residents detained in jails are suffering from a mental illness, often with co-occurring substance use disorders; and

W **HEREAS**, the South Orange County Community College District, through the campus health centers at Saddleback College and Irvine Valley College strive to support the health needs of students and employees through direct services or referrals to community partners to address mental health and other health related issues; now, therefore,

L **ET IT BE PROCLAIMED** that the South Orange County Community College District declares May as Mental Health Awareness Month to highlight the critical role of the district and its colleges in providing crucial behavioral health services and resources to its students and employees; and

B **E IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED**, that the South Orange County Community College District continues its commitment to partner with our community members to ensure that all mental health services are accessible, valuable and culturally appropriate for all SOCCCD stakeholders.

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