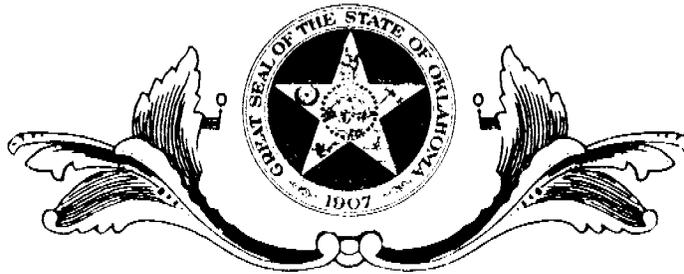


STATE OF OKLAHOMA



FILED

JUL 25 2012

OKLAHOMA SECRETARY
OF STATE

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Proclamation

Whereas, in Oklahoma, mental disorders are the third leading cause of chronic disease behind only pulmonary conditions and hypertension and more prevalent than heart disease, diabetes, cancer and stroke. Oklahoma ranks second in the nation for the number of adults who reported experiencing serious psychological distress over the past year. This represents more than 380,000 Oklahomans with over 14% of the adult population; and

Whereas, the average lifespan of Oklahomans with untreated behavioral health issues is still far shorter than that of all other Oklahomans. Oklahoma jumped from 13th to 8th in the nation for rates of suicide; and

Whereas, Oklahoma is considered a national leader in "telepsychiatry" and through the Oklahoma Telehealth Network, Oklahomans who were once unable to receive services due to geographical, economic or workforce barriers are now able to receive the care they desire. Oklahoma served as a model for 21 states that are developing telemedicine networks for behavioral health services; and

Whereas, it is essential to eliminate disparities in mental health by promoting well-being for all, regardless of race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, language, place of residence or age and ensure equity of access, delivery of services and improvement of outcomes. Through public and private partnership, we must develop and implement policy which reduces barriers to access, improves community outreach and engagement, and ensures culturally and linguistically competent care to diverse communities; and

Whereas, community mobilization of resources is needed to educate, advocate for, and train mental health providers to help remove barriers to treatment of mental disorders. Access to mental health treatment and services is of paramount importance;

Now, therefore, I, Mary Fallin, Governor of the State of Oklahoma, do hereby proclaim the month of July, 2012 as

"Minority Mental Health Awareness Month"

in the state of Oklahoma.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Oklahoma to be affixed.



Done at the Capitol, in the City of Oklahoma City, this 25th day of July, in the Year of Our Lord two thousand and twelve, and of the State of Oklahoma in the One hundred and fourth year.

Timothy J. McKeefe
Acting Assistant SECRETARY OF STATE

Mary Fallin
GOVERNOR

39002