



## NC COLLABORATIVE FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES

### A PROCLAMATION

CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WEEK

May 3 – 9, 2020

AND

CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS DAY

May 7, 2020

**WHEREAS**, to promote awareness of positive mental health, well-being and development for all children, youth and young adults ages birth through 26 years in North Carolina; and

**WHEREAS**, it is appropriate that a special week should be set apart each year for the direction of our thoughts toward our children's mental health, well-being and life; and

**WHEREAS**, to bring *Children's Mental Health into Focus 20/20: Healthy Families = Healthier Children*; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the United States Department of Health and Human Services, one in five children is diagnosed with a mental health condition; and

**WHEREAS**, families shall not feel stigma and shame in seeking treatment for their children and youth and be able to discuss openly their need for help without public retribution; and

**WHEREAS**, all citizens must take seriously a child's intent and comments to harm oneself must be taken seriously as a real and a crisis event.

**WHEREAS**, available early childhood and school-based programs, community supports and protective factors such as a sense of belonging, making time for family meals and check-ins, and other positive social connections help to promote mental health wellness and resilience as a part of overall health; and

**WHEREAS**, the life course of children of all ages, including youth and young adults with mental health disorders are improved through increased awareness, screening and detection, outreach, and coordination of care; and

**WHEREAS**, effective mental health treatment services to strengthen families, youth leadership development, and family partner/youth peer supports can lead to healthier families, children and youth; and

**WE THEREFORE**, the NC COLLABORATIVE FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES join together with all state, regional and community partners, family and youth organizations, and Community Collaboratives to connect youth and families to behavioral and physical health resources and training through a system of care (SOC) and recognize and proclaim the week of May 3-9, 2020 "**CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WEEK**" and May 7, 2020 "**CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS DAY**" in North Carolina, and commend its observance statewide as a part of MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH 2020.