

RESOLUTION RE: SUPPORT OF THE “ CAMPAIGN TO CHANGE DIRECTION” INITIATIVE IN SUSSEX COUNTY TO RAISE AWARENESS THAT THERE CAN BE NO HEALTH WITHOUT MENTAL HEALTH, PROVIDE AN EFFECTIVE WAY TO REDUCE THE STIGMA ASSOCIATED WITH MENTAL ILLNESS AND ENCOURAGE THOSE WHO ARE AFFECTED TO SEEK SERVICES AND FEEL SUPPORTED BY THEIR COMMUNITY

WHEREAS, the Sussex County Board of Chosen Freeholders, along with the Sussex County Department of Health and Human Services, recognize that mental health disorders affect children and adults, and are more common than cancer and heart disease combined; and

WHEREAS, nearly one in every five people, or 64.6 million American adults, have a diagnosable mental health disorder and half of all lifetime cases begin by age 14, and;

WHEREAS, the stigma associated with mental health is identified as the primary reason individuals do not seek the help they need to recover from these disorders; and

WHEREAS, the Campaign to Change Direction ® is a national model to reduce stigma and change the culture of mental health so that all of those in need receive the care and support they deserve. The Campaign encourages everyone to incorporate mental health into overall health, pledge to know and share the five signs of emotional suffering and support others to reach out for help when needed; and

WHEREAS, the members of the Sussex County Mental Health Board and Sussex County Local Advisory Committee on Alcohol and Drug Addiction voted at their April 20, 2017 meeting to support the Campaign to Change Direction initiative and agree that it is aligned with their mission to raise awareness of the signs and symptoms of mental illness.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Sussex and the Sussex County Department of Health and Human Services promote the Campaign to Change Direction ® initiative and encourage the use of this initiative in every municipality throughout the County, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution is to be made available for public inspection at the Office of the Clerk of the Board of Chosen Freeholders.

Certified as a true copy of the
Resolution adopted by the
Board of Chosen Freeholders
on the 26th day of July, 2017.

Catherine M. Williams, Clerk
Board of Chosen Freeholders
County of Sussex