

RESOLUTION NO. R-26-\_\_\_

**THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF THE COUNTY OF DOUGLAS, COLORADO**

**THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF THE COUNTY OF DOUGLAS, COLORADO, RESOLUTION  
PROCLAIMING MAY 2026 AS MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH**

*Whereas* mental health is an essential part of overall health, and mental health conditions affect many in our communities. In Colorado, 26% of adults and 23% of youth ages 12-17 experience a mental health concern each year; and

*Whereas* approximately one-half of chronic mental health conditions begin early in life around age 14, and three-quarters by age 24, yet people often wait years – on average 10 years – after symptoms first appear before receiving help; and

*Whereas* addressing stigma, increasing knowledge and awareness of common mental health conditions can close this gap and improve outcomes; and

*Whereas* suicide remains a leading cause of death in Colorado. Although statewide youth suicides declined in 2025 to their lowest point since 2007, Douglas County experienced an increase in youth suicides in the last year.

*Whereas* the 2025 Colorado Health Access Survey reported encouraging improvement: a 50% increase in Coloradans talking to their healthcare professional about mental health, improved care access overall, but especially for children, youth, and middle-aged adults, improved self-reported mental health for adults 30-64, and a halt to a trend of increasingly poor, self-reported mental health for the first time since 2016; and

*Whereas* the Douglas County Mental Health Collaborative (DCMHC), founded in 2014 under the leadership of the Board of County Commissioners to address gaps and inefficiencies in the mental health system, includes over 50 organizations working to strengthen system of care and improve health outcomes. Its current initiatives include suicide prevention, Mental Health First Aid training, targeted partnerships across public health, justice, treatment, and crisis intervention sectors, community education, stigma reduction, and expanding access to crisis services; and

*Whereas* the DCMHC launched the Community Response Team (CRT) in May 2017 which to date has served over 11,500 people, prevented over 1,900 unnecessary emergency department visits for mental health crisis, avoided 656 jail bookings, returned first responders to service over 7,700 times, and saved more than \$11 million in public safety and healthcare costs. CRT serves the entire county every day of the week; and

*Whereas* the DCMHC launched The Care Compact in 2020 and the Youth Care Compact in 2024 to provide care coordination for Douglas County residents living with mental health conditions, substance use disorder, intellectual and developmental disability/delay and unmet basic needs. To date, The Care Compact has served over 240 adults resulting in reductions in the use of crisis and emergency services, and the Youth Care Compact has served 98 families. These programs represent a cutting edge to meaningful care and support, as The Care Compact is a nationally recognized program by the National Association of Counties; and

*Whereas* Douglas County further demonstrated its commitment by establishing a Mental Health Division within its Department of Human Services in 2024, and dedicating over \$6 million of the County's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding to mental health initiatives including Veterans' mental health services, youth and family crisis support, suicide prevention, CRT and Care Compact expansion, community education, men's mental health, and implementation of 9-8-8 known in the state as the Colorado Mental Health Line; and

*Whereas* the DCMHC encourages early identification and treatment, mental health education, connection, and community engagement to end stigma and support recovery.

**NOW WHEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Douglas, Colorado do hereby proclaim May 1 through May 31, 2026 as Mental Health Awareness Month to shine a light on mental health conditions, promote understanding, reduce stigma, support those affected, and advocate for equitable access to care.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED**, this 12<sup>th</sup> day of May 2026 in Castle Rock, Douglas County, Colorado

**THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF THE COUNTY OF DOUGLAS, COLORADO**

**BY:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**GEORGE TEAL, Chair**

**ATTEST:**

**BY:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Hayley Hall, Clerk to the Board**