



# Proclamation

## By the Governor of Alabama

*WHEREAS, Mental health helps to sustain an individual's thought processes, relationships, productivity and ability to adapt to change or face adversity; and*

*WHEREAS, the Alabama Department of Mental Health and its divisions supported essential mental health care and services for approximately 140,000 Alabamians in 2020; and*

*WHEREAS, the continued theme of Mental Health Month is Tools 2 Thrive, in partnership with Mental Health America, provides individuals with information and coping strategies around common and acute struggles that affect mental health – especially during the COVID-19 pandemic; and*

*WHEREAS, at times, individuals in a mental health or substance use disorder crisis have encounters with law enforcement, first responders, hospital emergency room staff, or are placed in local jails, without the proper treatment and diagnosis; and*

*WHEREAS, to address this concern, the Alabama Department of Mental Health has begun the journey to an Alabama Crisis System of Care; and*

*WHEREAS, this will provide a systemic approach to crisis care that saves lives and dollars, beginning with the Stepping Up Alabama Initiative and the establishment of the first three crisis diversion centers in the state; and*

*WHEREAS, engaging in prevention, early identification and early intervention are effective ways to reduce the burden of mental illnesses, as they reduce the burden of other chronic conditions; and*

*WHEREAS, with effective treatment, all individuals with mental illnesses – even serious mental illnesses - can make progress toward recovery and lead full, productive lives; and*

*WHEREAS, The Alabama Department of Mental Health calls upon the citizens, government agencies, public and private institutions, businesses and schools in Alabama to commit to increasing awareness and understanding of mental health, and informing citizens of the steps they can take to protect their mental health and the need for appropriate and accessible services for all people with mental illness;*

*NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kay Ivey, Governor of Alabama, do hereby proclaim May 2021, as*

# Mental Health Month

*in the state of Alabama.*



*Given Under My Hand and the Great Seal of the Office of the Governor at the State Capitol in the City of Montgomery on the 29<sup>th</sup> day of April 2021.*

*Kay Ivey*  
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Kay Ivey, Governor