



Proclamation

By the Governor of Alabama

WHEREAS, mental health is essential to overall health and well-being. The Alabama Department of Mental Health and its divisions helped to address care and services for over 140,000 Alabamians in 2017; and

WHEREAS, one in four people may experience a mental health illness in their lifetime, the Division of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services serves those in need through three facilities and in partnership with essential community providers; and

WHEREAS, the Division of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services provides information and connections to more than 80 providers for those in need of treatment and recovery services; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that more than 15% of Alabamians experience a developmental disability in their lifetime, which can be manifested by substantial functional limitations. The Division of Development Disabilities Services served more than 7500 Alabamians in 2017; and

WHEREAS, all Alabamians experience times of difficulty and stress in their lives, and should feel comfortable in seeking help and support to manage these times; and

WHEREAS, engaging in prevention, early identification and early intervention are effective ways to reduce the burden of mental illnesses and reduce the burden of other chronic conditions. With effective treatment, all individuals with mental illnesses—even serious mental illnesses—can make progress toward recovery and lead full, productive lives; and

WHEREAS, each business, school, government agency, healthcare provider, organization and citizen has a responsibility to promote mental health and well-being for all; 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 illnesses;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kay Ivey, Governor of Alabama, do hereby proclaim May 2018, as

Mental Health Awareness 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 30th day of April 2018.

Kay Ivey
Kay Ivey, Governor