

*Before the Board of Supervisors in and for the  
County of Monterey, State of California*

**Resolution No.:**

Adopt Resolution Proclaiming February 11-16, 2019 “African American )  
Mental Health Awareness Week” In Monterey County..... )

**WHEREAS**, The Monterey County Board of Supervisors declares February 11-16, 2019 as “AFRICAN AMERICAN MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WEEK” in Monterey County as part of California’s ongoing “Each Mind Matters” and “Black Minds Matter 2” movements; and

**WHEREAS**, this week is dedicated to the memories of Dr. Francis Cecil Sumner, the first African American to receive a Doctorate in Psychology in 1920, Dr. Inez Beverly Prosser, the first African American woman to receive a Doctorate in Psychology in 1933, both being pioneers in the early days of the Black Psychology Movement, and Frederick Douglass, the great Abolitionist and Diplomat, who was famously quoted as saying “It is easier to build strong children than to fix broken men”, thus becoming a 19<sup>th</sup> century proponent of Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) and whose self-proclaimed birthday is February 14.; and

**WHEREAS**, there is a need to support the recovery process of African American individuals and their family members struggling with the challenges of mental health issues through the delivery of community based, culturally responsive services, including but not limited to Community and Culturally Defined Evidence Practices (CDEP); and

**WHEREAS**, mental health issues are among the leading causes of disability among all groups of people in the United States, African Americans included; and

**WHEREAS**, the 1999 Surgeon General’s Report and the 2004 Mental Health Services Act identified African Americans as one of four major ethnic groups experiencing mental health services disparities in this nation; and

**WHEREAS**, in May 2008, The Village Project, Inc., an African American-focused Family Resource Center bringing culturally appropriate and responsive clinical services to Monterey County for African Americans as well as other underserved populations was founded, producing over ten and one-half years of positive outcomes for those communities; and

**WHEREAS**, among those critical outcomes have been the reduction of stigma and cultural distrust among African Americans and others, thus breaking down two formidable barriers to those populations requesting, accessing and receiving mental health services; and

**WHEREAS**, the goal of this week is to continue to heighten the awareness of the unique history and experience of African Americans in the country and in this county and the affect that history has on the mental health needs in the African American community; and encourage people to actively seek out information that will allow them to put misconceptions and misunderstandings to rest.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Monterey County Board of Supervisors, in its acknowledgment of **BLACK HISTORY MONTH** and its use of the significance of this month to proclaim **FEBRUARY 11-16, 2019** as “**AFRICAN AMERICAN MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WEEK**”, demonstrates its ongoing commitment to encouraging collective efforts by governmental agencies, community based organizations, community volunteers, Spiritual Leaders and families to replace misinformation about mental health care and erase prejudice, fear and blame, thereby reducing stigma and disparities in the African American and other historically underserved communities in Monterey County.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** on this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_, 2019, by the following vote, to wit:

**AYES:**

**NOES:**

**ABSENT:**

I, Valerie Ralph, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Monterey, State of California, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of an original resolution of said Board of Supervisors duly made and entered in the minutes thereof of Minute Book \_\_\_\_\_ for the meeting on \_\_\_\_\_.

Dated:

Valerie Ralph, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
County of Monterey, State of California

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy