



RON DESANTIS
GOVERNOR

MENTAL HEALTH MONTH IN FLORIDA

WHEREAS, promoting the mental health and well-being for all children, youth, and families in Florida is fundamental to the future of our communities; and

WHEREAS, suicide, opioid misuse, and children's mental health remain priority areas of concern for the state of Florida; and

WHEREAS, from the beginning of this administration, First Lady Casey DeSantis has prioritized mental health and substance abuse awareness and raising the bar for all involved in policymaking related to the continuum of care and leveraging resources to help those struggling through the Agency for Health Care Administration, Agency for Persons with Disabilities, Department of Children and Families, Department of Education, Department of Elder Affairs, Division of Emergency Management, Department of Health, Department of Juvenile Justice and Department of Veterans Affairs; and

WHEREAS, on June 27, 2020, I signed into law House Bill 945, which addresses the need for comprehensive, coordinated mental health services for children, youth, and families; and

WHEREAS, First Lady Casey DeSantis' Hope for Healing initiative promotes collaboration within state government to break down silos, maximize resources, identify evidence-based practices and make meaningful progress to support the mental health, wellbeing and resiliency of Floridians; and

WHEREAS, First Lady Casey DeSantis continues to prioritize the mental wellbeing of everyone in the state of Florida, and through her resiliency initiative for Florida schools, youth are empowered through resiliency and perseverance by promoting volunteerism, teamwork, problem solving and other crucial character development skills; and

WHEREAS, I increased Florida's Mental Health Assistance Allocation by \$25 million, for a total of \$100 million, to ensure schools are equipped with the resources to provide meaningful help; and

WHEREAS, Children's Mental Health Awareness Day is observed annually on May 7th to promote and empower our children to reach their full potential and lead healthy lives; and

WHEREAS, in 2020, the administration expanded the existing capacity of crisis counselors through 2-1-1 providers across Florida to provide counseling and referral services to Floridians facing mental health and wellbeing challenges, and

WHEREAS, effective treatment for mental health conditions is critical to reducing the number of individuals and families in crisis, breaking individual and generational cycles, and creating healing within oneself, home, and community; and

WHEREAS, the First Lady and I also announced \$23 million in December 2020 to reinforce Florida's mental health services system, further allowing the Department of Children and Families to provide mental health and substance abuse treatment for Floridians in need; and

WHEREAS, over the course of the last year the Florida Department of Elder Affairs has remained focused on combatting the effects of social isolation for Florida seniors, especially those in nursing homes and assisted living facilities, through multiple programs and resources; and

WHEREAS, Mental Health Awareness Month is an opportunity to raise awareness of mental health issues and services in Florida to break the silence and stigma surrounding mental health.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ron DeSantis, Governor of the State of Florida, do hereby extend my support to all observing May 2021, as *Mental Health Month in Florida*.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed at Tallahassee, the Capital, this 30th day of April, in the year two thousand twenty-one.


Governor