

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND
2021 Legislative Session

Resolution No. CR-55-2021

Proposed by Council Member Taveras

Introduced by Council Members Taveras, Hawkins, Streeter, Turner, Harrison, Dernoga,
Davis, Ivey and Glaros

Date of Introduction May 24, 2021

RESOLUTION

1 A RESOLUTION concerning

2 Mental Health Awareness Month

3 For the purpose of recognizing May as Mental Health Awareness Month and raising awareness
4 of the trauma and impact it can have on the physical, emotional, and mental well-being of
5 children, families and communities.

6 WHEREAS, Mental Health Awareness Month began in the United States in 1949 and
7 was started by the Mental Health America organization; and

8 WHEREAS, the month of May, Mental Health Awareness Month, is observed with
9 media, local events, and film screening; and

10 WHEREAS, this Resolution encourages the Prince George’s County Council to act to
11 address systemic drivers causing disparities in need and access to mental health care, and to
12 support culturally-informed mental health services; and

13 WHEREAS, the County acknowledges that the COVID–19 pandemic has
14 disproportionately impacted communities of color, who will have long-term mental health
15 implications due to the traumatic stress associated with pandemic conditions; and

16 WHEREAS, this Resolution underscores the importance of destigmatizing mental illness,
17 improving access to mental health resources for communities of color, and building cultural
18 competency and awareness amongst health providers regarding the historic inequities in the
19 delivery of mental health care in our County; and

20 WHEREAS, it is vital for us to understand that our communities oftentimes feel the brunt
21 of disparities due to insufficient access to culturally tailored mental health care, which has drastic
22 consequences on our societal wellbeing and collective public health; and

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8

WHEREAS, mental healthcare IS healthcare and we must address the stigma surrounding it, especially in minority communities. It is imperative we continue to raise awareness and boost access to mental healthcare for all, to increase empathy and receptivity to treatment.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Prince George’s County Council supports bringing the kind of awareness to this issue that encourages resources, investment in linguistically appropriate mental health services, and dialogue that encourages open conversations.

Adopted this 24th day of May, 2021.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE
GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

BY: _____
Calving S. Hawkins, II
Chair

ATTEST:

Donna J. Brown
Clerk of the Council