

88-16
R E S O L U T I O N

- WHEREAS, mental illness interferes with vital developmental and maturational processes in at least 12,000,000 children;
- WHEREAS, during any 6-month period, alcohol, drug, and mental disorders affect almost 19 percent of adults in the United States;
- WHEREAS, the growing population of the elderly is particularly vulnerable to mental illness;
- WHEREAS, between 30 and 50 percent of homeless people suffer serious and chronic forms of mental illness;
- WHEREAS, it is estimated that 10 percent of patients suffering from acquired immune deficiency syndrome, known as AIDS, will develop dementia or other psychiatric problems as the first sign of the disease and that as many as 67 percent of the patients will show neuropsychiatric symptoms before they die;
- WHEREAS, it is estimated that there are 33,000 mental disorder related deaths each year and that suicide accounts for at least 29,000 of the deaths, and it is suspected that the actual figures may be at least 3 times higher;
- WHEREAS, mental disorders result in staggering economic costs to society, which are estimated to be in excess of \$249,000,000,000, and include direct treatment and support and indirect costs, such as lost productivity;
- WHEREAS, mental illness is an increasingly treatable disability with excellent prospects for remedy and recovery when properly recognized;
- WHEREAS, appropriate treatment of mental illness is cost effective because it restores productivity, reduces utilization of other health services, and lessens social dependence;
- WHEREAS, mentally ill individuals and their families have begun to join self-help groups to combat the unfair stigma of the diseases, support greater investment in research, and advocate an adequate continuum of care from hospital to community;
- WHEREAS, unprecedented major research developments in recent years have added new methods and technology to the sophisticated and objective study of the functioning of the brain and its linkages to normal and abnormal behavior;

WHEREAS,

research in recent decades has led to a wide array of new and more effective somatic and psychosocial methods of treatment for some of the most incapacitating forms of mental illness, including schizophrenia, major affective disorders, phobias, and phobic disorders; and

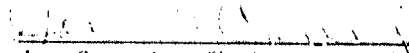
WHEREAS,

recent and unparalleled growth in scientific knowledge about mental illness has generated the current emergence of a new threshold of opportunity for future research advances and fruitful application to specific clinical problems;

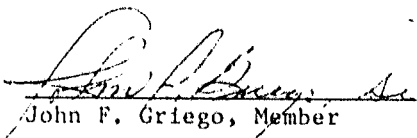
NOW THEREFORE,

be it resolved that the Commissioners of Torrance County do hereby declare the week of October 2nd thru October 8th, 1988 Mental Illness Awareness Week.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED THIS 21st DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 1988.



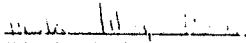
Joe Carrejo, Chairman



John F. Griego, Member

Robert G. Mathews, Member

Attest:



Linda Riley-Warren, Clerk of the Board