

PROCLAMATION

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS, approximately one in five children have a mental health disorder including a mood disorder, an anxiety disorder, a behavior or conduct disorder, or an attention deficit and/or hyperactivity disorder; and

WHEREAS, 50 percent of mental illness begins by age 14, and 75 percent begins by age 24; and

WHEREAS, positive mental health helps promote successful relationships, raised capacity, and increased resiliency; and

WHEREAS, with effective treatment, those individuals suffering with mental health symptoms and illness can recover and lead satisfying and productive lives; and

WHEREAS, the Okeechobee County School Board is committed to raising awareness, providing education and training on mental health disorder signs and symptoms, and reducing stigma; and

WHEREAS, the Okeechobee County School Board has a team of mental health and social work supports available, as well as ancillary supports, to students and staff who may be showing signs and/or symptoms of mental health conditions; and

WHEREAS, the Okeechobee County School Board is committed to ensuring that those in need, including students and staff, have access to services by healthcare providers trained in best practices to provide treatment, education, and support to clients, and to reducing the stigma associated with using behavioral health treatment; and

WHEREAS, no single effort will be sufficient or appropriate for all populations or communities; every citizen in our community can make a difference in the lives of others, and all are asked to join together and take a stand to promote mental wellness; and

NOW, THEREFORE, the Okeechobee County School Board and the Okeechobee County Superintendent of Schools declare the month of May 2023 as

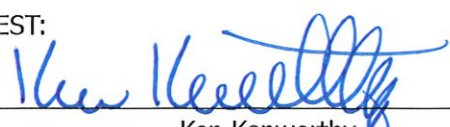
MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

Passed and adopted this 9th day of May, 2023.



Melisa Jahner
Chairman

ATTEST:



Ken Kenworthy
Superintendent of Schools

