

Corrected copy W. 15.a

**THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, LANE COUNTY, OREGON**

ORDER)                    )        IN THE MATTER OF PROCLAIMING THE MONTH OF MAY 2008  
                                  )        **CHILD MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH**

**WHEREAS**, In Oregon, one in five of Oregon's children and youth experience symptoms that would qualify them for the diagnosis of a mental health disorder; and,

**WHEREAS**, Transition age youth 16 to 24 are 80% less likely than any population in Oregon with mental health needs to receive services; and,

**WHEREAS**, As youth grow from ages 16 to 24 their access to mental health services drops by 80%; and,

**WHEREAS**, Young people are the best resource and advocates for their own healing and recovery, so Lane County shall ensure their voices inform and direct programs and supports; and,

**WHEREAS**, Severe mental health problems may be prevented or lessened with appropriate intervention and support, promoting resiliency and enabling youth to fully recover and become healthy, thriving, productive adults; and,

**WHEREAS**, Children and youth with behavioral and emotional challenges and their families deserve access to services and supports that are family driven and culturally appropriate; and,

**WHEREAS**, Stigma associated with mental illness should no longer exist; and,

**WHEREAS**, Research shows that many behavioral and emotional challenges experienced by youth are a result of unresolved trauma; and,

**WHEREAS**, In teenagers emotional upheavals are easily misinterpreted or mishandled within the otherwise normal turmoil of adolescence; and,

**WHEREAS**, The services of Lane County's mental health providers, caregivers and administrators are considered some of the best in the State and therefore deserve recognition for their dedication and service in striving to meet the mental health needs of children, youth and families; and,

**WHEREAS**, Both the 2007 Lane County Comprehensive *Community* Planning Process for Services to Children and Families and Lane County's 2007-09 Biennial Mental Health and Addictions Plan have identified children's mental health issues as a top priority on which to focus significant community resources and effort;

**THEREFORE**, We hold sacred our most valuable resource: our children and young people. We remain committed to always doing our best to ensure that all Lane County children and youth grow up happy, healthy and supported.

**NOW, IT IS HEREBY PROCLAIMED: MAY 2008 CHILD MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH**

**APPROVED** this 28th day of MAY, 2008.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Faye Stewart, Chair  
**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**