



STATE OF NEW MEXICO EXECUTIVE OFFICE SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

# Proclamation

*WHEREAS*, mental health is essential to everyone's overall physical health and emotional well-being and caring for your mind as well as your body is good for your overall health and vital for success in personal life, at work and at school; and

*WHEREAS*, mental illness will strike nearly one in four adults and children in a given year, regardless of age, gender, race ethnicity, religion, or economic status; and

*WHEREAS*, mental health and substance abuse problems are as treatable as many physical illnesses, and people who have mental illnesses and substance abuse problems can recover and lead full, productive lives; and

*WHEREAS*, an estimated two-thirds of adults and young people who are diagnosed with mental health disorders are not receiving the help they need; and

*WHEREAS*, the cost of untreated and mistreated mental illnesses and addictive disorders to American businesses, governments, and families has grown to \$100 billion annually; and

*WHEREAS*, community-based services that respond to individual and family needs are cost-effective and beneficial to consumers and the community; and

*WHEREAS*, the New Mexico Behavioral Health Collaborative is in its fifth year of a 10 year process to streamline behavioral health services and promote recovery and resiliency through support services across the state in an effort to build healthy families, from infants to adults; and

*WHEREAS*, the National Mental Health Association, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, and the New Mexico Behavioral Health Collaborative and its 18 Local Collaboratives, observe Mental Health Month every May to raise awareness and understanding of mental illness and mental health;

**NOW, THEREFORE I, Bill Richardson, Governor of the State of New Mexico, do hereby proclaim May 2009 as:**

## **"Mental Health Month"**

throughout the State of New Mexico and call upon the citizens, government agencies, public and private institutions, businesses and schools in New Mexico to recognize the importance of mental health, as well as physical health, and to commit our community to increasing awareness and understanding of mental health and the need for appropriate and accessible services for all people who have mental illnesses.

Attest:

  
Myra Herrera  
Secretary of State

Done at the Executive Office this  
28<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2009.

Witness my hand and the Great Seal  
of the Great State of New Mexico

  
Bill Richardson  
Governor

