

CITY OF GAUTIER PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, mental health is essential to health: Every individual and family within a community must understand that mental health is an essential part of overall health. We must increase suicide prevention by reducing the stigma of seeking mental health care through the advancement and implementation of national strategies;

WHEREAS, it is essential to eliminate disparities in mental health by promoting well-being for all, regardless of race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, language, place of residence or age and ensure equity of access, delivery of services and improvement of outcomes. Through public and private partnership, we must develop and implement policy which reduces barriers to access, improves community outreach and engagement and ensures culturally and linguistically competent care to diverse communities;

WHEREAS, individuals with mental illness and their families must have the necessary information and the opportunity to exercise choice over their care decisions. We must create an integrated state plan for treatment support, including individualized plans of care, expanded supported employment, enhanced rights protections, better criminal and juvenile justice diversion and re-entry programs, improve access to housing, end chronic homelessness and increase mental health services;

WHEREAS, every individual must have the opportunity for early and appropriate mental health screening, assessment and referral to treatment. We must screen for mental disorders in child welfare, criminal justice, mental health, substance abuse and primary care settings;

WHEREAS, adults and children with mental illness must have ready access to best treatments, services and supports leading to recovery. We must support evidence-based practice interventions, escalate research, increase a diverse mental health workforce and expand knowledge base to inform policy.

WHEREAS, the mental health system must inform individuals with mental illness, providers and public policy with quality, accessible and accountable information. We must use information technology to improve care and information dissemination among the diverse cultural groups within our community.

NOW, THEREFORE RESOLVED, I, Gordon T. Gollott, Mayor of the City of Gautier, Mississippi, do hereby proclaim July as **Minority Mental Health Awareness Month** in Gautier, Mississippi to increase public awareness of severe mental illness and to promote the wellness of our diverse community members.



IN WITNESS WEHERE OF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the city-state of Gautier, Mississippi on July 5, 2016.

GORDON T. GOLLOTT, MAYOR