



COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

AGENDA ITEM NO.

E-3

For the meeting of: April 19, 2016

Date: April 12, 2016
To: Board of Supervisors
From: Supervisors Rex Bohn
Subject: Proclaim April 2016 as National Autism Awareness Month in Humboldt County

RECOMMENDATION(S): That the Board of Supervisors adopt the Proclamation.

SOURCE OF FUNDING: N/A

DISCUSSION: April is National Autism Awareness Month. National Autism Awareness Month represents an opportunity to promote autism awareness, autism acceptance and to draw attention to the tens of thousands facing an autism diagnosis each year.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: N/A

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT: N/A

ALTERNATIVES TO STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS: Board discretion.

ATTACHMENTS: Proclamation

Prepared by Kathy Hayes

Signature [Handwritten Signature]

REVIEW: Auditor County Counsel Personnel Risk Manager Other

TYPE OF ITEM:
Consent
Departmental
Public Hearing
XX Other Special Presentation (5 minutes)

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT
Upon motion of Supervisor Bohn
Seconded by Supervisor Fennell
And unanimously carried by those members present,
The Board hereby adopts the recommended action
contained in this report.

PREVIOUS ACTION/REFERRAL:

Board Order No.

Meeting of:

Dated: April 19, 2016
Tracy Damico, Deputy Clerk of the Board
By: [Handwritten Signatures]

**PROCLAMATION  
of the  
Board of Supervisors  
County of Humboldt**



**WHEREAS**, April is Autism Awareness Month and 1 in 68 children are diagnosed with Autism in the United States and Humboldt County, impacting local families and our community; and

**WHEREAS**, the organization Families Advocating Autism Now (FAAN) is striving to help children and adults with Autism and their families by providing several services that are not provided or only partially provided for in our community; and

**WHEREAS**, the number one cause of death among children with Autism is accidental drowning which accounts for 91% of all deaths of children under 14, FAAN provides water therapy which is a crucial component in the safety of children with Autism and exposing the children to water therapy can increase their familiarity with water, their swimming skills, and their understanding of safety hazards around water; and

**WHEREAS**, because children with Autism have many needs in the motor, emotional and sensory areas, FAAN supports an Equine Therapy program that benefits children with Autism by allowing them to interact with and ride horses which increases their motor, emotional and sensory capabilities; and

**WHEREAS**, children and adults with Autism have many issues, mostly sensory, with being able to participate in viewing movies in a theatre in a normal setting. FAAN provides monthly sensory screenings, free of charge, at local theaters, in an environment that is tailored to their sensory and emotional needs; and

**WHEREAS**, local educators and the local school systems are greatly impacted by the increasing population of children with Autism and the need for specialized assistance in order to be successful and maintain their place in the educational system. FAAN supports local educators by using monies collected to purchase items such as iPads, books, and educational software that directly benefit all students with Autism; and

**WHEREAS**, of all monies raised by FAAN, 94% goes directly to helping children and adults with Autism. Board members and volunteers do not receive any compensation for their time and effort to help the community; and

**WHEREAS**, the stated mission of FAAN is "To improve opportunities for growth and development of individuals diagnosed with Autism, and provide support and guidance to the education system for special needs of children on the Autistic Spectrum while advocating for individuals with Autism in our community."

**NOW THEREFORE**, the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors hereby proclaims April, 2016 as Families Advocating Autism Now Month and urges the community to honor the Autistic population of Humboldt County and the services and support provided by the FAAN organization in assisting children and adults with Autism and their families.

Dated: April 19, 2016

  
Mark Lovelace, Chair