

Humboldt County Board of Supervisors **PROCLAMATION**

in honor of

Peer Support Appreciation Week

WHEREAS, Peer Support Specialists are trained providers who use their lived experience to encourage, engage with and support others with mental health, addiction or trauma by using the recovery model and the principles and values of peer support to provide hope, and to be a role model for recovery; and

WHEREAS, Peer Support Specialists use the Federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) definition of recovery, guiding principles of recovery, mission and vision to empower and assist their peers to live a life of their choosing, and improve the likelihood of long-term recovery; and

WHEREAS, the Humboldt County Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS) Behavioral Health Branch employs Peer Support Specialists in the Transition-Age Youth Division and Humboldt County Transition-Age Youth Collaboration, as well as the peer-run Hope Center having long been a pioneer in the efforts to provide these services in Humboldt County; and

WHEREAS, DHHS also employs parent partners throughout the Children's System of Care where they provide critical support helping clients and their families navigate the system at various stages of engagement and treatment; and

WHEREAS, as of January 2022, Medi-Cal-certified Peer Support Specialist services are eligible for federal reimbursements, meaning the benefit of these services are recognized as a vital piece in the efforts to promote recovery and wellness; and

WHEREAS, Peer support is an emerging best practice, has proven to be a cost-effective treatment for mental health, addiction and trauma, reduces inpatient hospital days and recidivism rates and increases a consumer's ability to access culturally responsive community-based services; and

WHEREAS, California is facing severe behavioral health workforce shortages and Peer Support Specialists can play a meaningful role in alleviating these shortages; and

WHEREAS, there is a need to increase public awareness of peers, peer services, how those with lived experience impact the lives of countless adults, children, adolescents and families within the health and human services industry, and how they are providing a shining example of recovery in the array of services delivered.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, that the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors hereby recognizes the third week of May 2026, the National Mental Health Awareness Month, as Peer Support Appreciation Week in Humboldt County.



DATED: May 12, 2026

Mike Wilson, Chair