

**WHEREAS**, National Mental Illness Awareness Week is October 2 through 8. This year's theme "Changing Attitudes, Changing Lives" challenges us all to begin talking about mental illness and learn how we can help ourselves and others get help; and

**WHEREAS**, mental illness is a medical illness - it does not discriminate. One in four adults experiences a mental disorder in any given year. One in 17 adults lives with serious mental illness such as schizophrenia, major depression or bipolar disorder; and

**WHEREAS**, the best treatments for mental illnesses today are highly effective; between 70 and 90 percent of individuals have significant reduction of symptoms and improved quality of life; and

**WHEREAS**, Mental Illness Awareness Week is especially important this year as severe budget cuts threaten mental health services across the state. The cost to the community is high. People who do not receive treatment end up in hospitals, shelters, in jail or deceased; and

**WHEREAS**, Sedgwick County COMCARE, NAMI, the Mental Health Association, Breakthrough Club, Via Christi Behavioral Health, Project Independence and many other community organizations continue to provide treatment, support, education and advocacy to help improve the lives of individuals affected by mental illnesses.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that I, David Unruh, Chairman of the Board of Sedgwick County Commissioners, do hereby proclaim October 2 through 8, 2011, as

**"MENTAL ILLNESS AWARENESS WEEK"**

in Sedgwick County. I call upon all Sedgwick County citizens to promote mental illness awareness, put an end to stigma, and advocate for support for treatment and recovery. By changing our attitudes, we can change lives.

September 28, 2011