

WHEREAS, each year hundreds of Sedgwick County residents face the reality of living with a mental illness. Every year during the first full week of October, participating organizations bring awareness of mental illness to our community; and

WHEREAS, mental illness affects 1 out of every 5 people and touches every age, race, religion and income. Mental illnesses are more common than cancer, diabetes, or heart disease. More than two thirds of Sedgwick County residents who have a mental illness live in our community and lead productive lives; and

WHEREAS, mental illnesses are not the result of personal weakness or lack of character. Mental illnesses are treatable. Most people diagnosed with a mental illness can experience relief by seeking treatment; and

WHEREAS, NAMI, Newman University, COMCARE, the Robert Dole Veterans Hospital, the Mental Health Association, Breakthrough Club, Via Christi Behavioral Health, and many other Sedgwick County community organizations continue to provide treatment, support, education and advocacy to help improve the lives of individuals affected by mental illness.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that I, Richard Ranzau, Chairman of the Board of Sedgwick County Commissioners, do hereby proclaim October 4-10, 2015 as

MENTAL ILLNESS AWARENESS WEEK

Sedgwick County is dedicated to increasing public awareness in our community and ask that you reach out to someone who needs help. No one should have to confront mental illness alone.

September 23, 2015