

WHEREAS, serious mental illness such as major depression, bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, obsessive-compulsive disorder, severe anxiety disorders, borderline personality disorder, and post-traumatic stress disorders affect **one in every four people annually**; and

WHEREAS, serious mental illness is a highly treatable medical illness of the brain posing the same concern as cancer, heart disease, diabetes and other illnesses; and

WHEREAS, scientific research is producing tremendous breakthroughs in the understanding of mental illness, resulting in more effective treatments to allow people to reclaim full and productive lives; and

WHEREAS, misunderstandings exist about mental illness and social culture often wrongly imposes a stigma on mental illness; 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, Tim Norton, chairman of the Board of Sedgwick County Commissioners, do hereby proclaim October 7 – 13, 2012,

“MENTAL ILLNESS AWARENESS WEEK”

and ask all Sedgwick County residents to increase your awareness of mental illness and promote treatment and recovery. By changing attitudes, we can change lives.

October 3, 2012