

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

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

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

**WHEREAS**, NAMI, Via Christi Behavioral Health, COMCARE, the Mental Health Association of South Central Kansas, the Robert J. Dole Veterans Administration Medical Center, Breakthrough Club, Project Independence, Prairie View 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, Chairman David T. Dennis, and the Board of Sedgwick County Commissioners, do hereby proclaim the week of October 7-13, 2018, as

### **MENTAL ILLNESS AWARENESS WEEK**

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

October 3, 2018