

Rotary
District 7475



~~stigma~~ free

WHEREAS, the Community Connection Initiative of Rotary District 7475 supports the designation of a Stigma-Free Safe Zone in all nine counties where Rotary 7475 District operates, and;

WHEREAS, Rotary District 7475 recognizes that one in five Americans has experienced mental health and substance use disorders in a given year according to the National Institute of Mental Health, and;

WHEREAS, mental health problems are more common than cancer and heart disease combined affecting children and adults, including more than half of our Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans treated at Veteran Administration hospitals, and;

WHEREAS, given the serious nature of this public health problem we must continue to reach the millions who need help, and;

WHEREAS, the stigma associated these conditions is identified as the primary reason individuals fail to seek the help they need to recover from the disease, and;

WHEREAS, Stigma-Free Community initiatives aim to inspire public interest and open dialogues about effects of stigma, raise awareness of mental health and substance use disorders and create a culture wherein residents feel supported by their community and neighbors and feel free to seek treatment for the disease without fear of stigma and;

WHEREAS, promoting awareness that there can be no “health” without mental health will break down barriers and encourage residents of all ages to be mindful of their mental health and seek help when needed, and;

WHEREAS, local resources are available to treat mental health and substance use so no one resident needs to suffer alone or feel hopeless, and;

WHEREAS, establishing Stigma-Free Community initiatives will raise awareness of resources and encourage residents to engage in care as soon as the need is identified so recovery can begin and where hope is inspired and tragedies are avoided, and;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that District Governor M. Ann Walko of Rotary District 7475, recognizes the community needs and supports the efforts of the District 7475 Community Connection Initiative in designating Rotary District 7475 as a Stigma-Free Safe Zone on this 24th Day of March, 2021.