

**PROCLAMATION**  
***MENTAL HEALTH MONTH***  
***May 2010***

- WHEREAS:** mental illness is the leading cause of disability in the United States, resulting in 217 million days of work lost annually due to productivity decline, more than many other chronic conditions; and
- WHEREAS:** by 2020, behavioral health disorders will surpass all physical diseases world-wide; and
- WHEREAS:** positive mental health is essential to the overall health and emotional well-being of Colorado's children, youth, adults, and families; and
- WHEREAS:** people who have mental illnesses can recover and lead full, productive lives; and
- WHEREAS:** access to medication and treatment helps prevent people from ending up in emergency rooms, corrections facilities or becoming homeless and, most importantly, helps prevent suicide; and
- WHEREAS:** it costs 6 1/2 times more to incarcerate people experiencing mental health issues than to treat them in the community; and
- WHEREAS:** the vast majority of children, youth, and adults in Colorado who have mental health disorders are not receiving the help they need; and addressing their complex mental health needs is fundamental to the future of Colorado,

***NOW THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED***, that the Jefferson County Board of Commissioners, of the State of Colorado, declares the month of May 2010

***Mental Health Month in Jefferson County***

and calls upon all citizens to support increased awareness and understanding of mental health issues so that those suffering from mental illness receive accessible and appropriate services.

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**Kathy Hartman**

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**Faye Griffin**

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**J. Kevin McCasky**

Dated: May 4, 2010