

**PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT  
MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WEEK  
FEBRUARY 13-19, 2011**

**WHEREAS**, the Alameda County Board of Supervisors declares FEBRUARY 13-19, 2011 as PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WEEK in Alameda County; and

**WHEREAS**, there is a need to support the recovery process of clients/consumers and family members struggling with the challenges of mental health issues through the delivery of culturally responsive services; including but not limited to community defined practices;

**WHEREAS**, mental health issues are among the leading causes of disability in America; and

**WHEREAS**, the United Nations Declared 2011 “The International Year of People of African Descent”

**WHEREAS**, the 1999 Surgeon General’s Report identified African American as one of the four major ethnic groups experiencing mental health disparities in this nation. The report cites African American mental health clients and consumers as often being served inappropriately and in the most restrictive settings with poor outcomes.

**WHEREAS**, Alameda County Behavioral Health Care Services in an effort to respond to the concerns has been one of the pioneering counties to heed the voice of the African American community by embarking upon a utilization study to identify barriers and develop strategies and explore resources and tools that will enhance restoration of mental health wellness; and

**WHEREAS**, clients/consumers, family members, providers, spiritual leaders and all other interested stakeholders can participate in efforts to unite in a collective effort to replace misinformation about mental health, erase prejudice, fear and blame thereby reducing stigma and disparities to the African American community.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that this Board of Supervisors, County of Alameda, State of California proclaims FEBRUARY 13- 19, 2011 as PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WEEK and encourages all citizens to participate in this important cause.

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GAIL STEELE, PRESIDENT  
SUPERVISOR, SECOND DISTRICT

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KEITH CARSON, VICE-PRESIDENT  
SUPERVISOR, FIFTH DISTRICT

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SCOTT HAGGERTY  
SUPERVISOR, FIRST DISTRICT

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ALICE LAI-BITKER  
SUPERVISOR, THIRD DISTRICT

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NATE MILEY  
SUPERVISOR, FOURTH DISTRICT