



OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Phone: 970-336-7204 Fax: 970-352-0242
1150 O St., P.O. Box 758, Greeley, CO 80632

NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Jennifer Finch, 970-336-7203

WELD COUNTY COMMISSIONERS PROCLAIM MAY AS MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

WELD COUNTY, CO – The Board of County Commissioners proclaimed May as Mental Health Awareness Month to bring attention to those affected by mental health and addictive disorders as well as the importance of prevention. Prevention is an effective way to reduce the burden of mental health and addiction. Access to necessary medication and treatment helps prevent individuals from ending up in emergency rooms, correction facilities, from becoming homeless and most importantly, prevents suicide.



From left: Commissioner Sean Conway; Commissioner Julie Cozad; Jim Riesberg, North Range Behavior Health Board Member; Joanna Sinnwell, Director of Business Development for North Range Behavior Health; Larry Pottorff, Executive Director of North Range Behavior Health; Paleri Mann, North Range Behavior Health Board Member; Commissioner Chair Barbara Kirkmeyer; Commissioner Mike Freeman and Commissioner Steve Moreno.

One in every four families is affected by mental health disorders in a given year. In fact, in 2014, Weld County lost 54 lives to suicide, which was an 11% increase from 2013.

"We want Weld County residents to know that it is ok to talk about mental health. There are resources in our community that provide assistance and are available county-wide," said Commissioner Chair Barbara Kirkmeyer.

As of December 2014, all Weld County residents have access to a 24/7 Crisis Services hotline for mental health and addiction crisis through the Colorado Crisis Services System. Also, North Range Behavioral Health offers walk-in crisis services at 928 12th Street in Greeley, which is also open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

"The crisis center is very helpful to Weld County residents," said Commissioner Julie Cozad. "Thank you for bringing awareness to mental health and giving people a place to receive guidance."

For more information about mental health services in Weld County, visit the North Range Behavioral Health website at www.northrange.org. If you or someone you know is in crisis, please call at 970-347-2120 or 844-493-8255.

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