

**2016 ASIAN PACIFIC ISLANDER (API)  
MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS DAY**

*May 13, 2016*

**WHEREAS**, the Alameda County Board of Supervisors declares May 13th as Asian Pacific Islander, (API) Mental Health Awareness Day 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 welcoming and honoring culturally responsive services, including but not limited to community defined practices offered by Asian American and Pacific Islander providers; and

**WHEREAS**, mental health issues are among the leading causes of disability in America, and have not been properly addressed for those who identify as API; and

**WHEREAS**, Alameda County BHCS to better address disparities specific to APIs has launched a quality improvement initiative and will lead the efforts with essential input from consumers, family members, providers and other stakeholders to focus specific attention on advocating and promoting funding for culturally congruent programming for this diverse population; and

**WHEREAS**, the 1999 Surgeon General's Report identified Asian Americans as one of the four major ethnic groups experiencing mental health disparities in this nation. Further, the API population is the largest ethnic category in Alameda County, with a poor record of being reached by effective services; and

**WHEREAS**, as of July 2, 2014 there are 28.9% Asians, 1% Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders in Alameda County and only a 2% utilization rate of public mental health treatment programs; and

**WHEREAS**, Alameda County Behavioral Health Care Services, in an effort to respond to these concerns, has been one of the pioneering County departments to heed the needs of the API community by establishing an API Quality Improvement Initiative to progress in our work of using culturally responsive approaches, 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 uniting in a collective effort to replace misinformation about mental health, and erase prejudice, fear, and blame, thereby reducing stigma, loss of face, and disparities in regard to the services provided to the API community,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED** this Board of Supervisors, County of Alameda, State of California, does hereby proclaim **May 13, 2016** as Alameda County **"API" Mental Health Awareness Day**, and encourages all citizens to participate in this important cause.

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**SCOTT HAGGERTY, President**  
Supervisor, First District

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**WILMA CHAN, Vice President**  
Supervisor, Third District

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**RICHARD VALLE**  
Supervisor, Second District

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**NATE MILEY**  
Supervisor, Fourth District

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**KEITH CARSON**  
Supervisor, Fifth District