

STATE of WISCONSIN



OFFICE of the GOVERNOR

Proclamation

WHEREAS; the state of mental health in Wisconsin is a quiet, burgeoning crisis, and addressing mental health and ensuring that every person has access to quality, affordable, and culturally relevant services is essential to the overall health and well-being of all Wisconsinites; and

WHEREAS; the state of Wisconsin recognizes that there are many factors that can impact an individual's mental health and their ability to access care—including, but not limited to, discrimination and bias based on race, ethnicity, gender identity, socioeconomic status, sexual orientation, religion, disability status, geographic location, and nation of origin—and that these factors intersect and compound one another, and can result in lower quality of care, lack of or inadequate health insurance, and stigma; and

WHEREAS; the burden carried by people of color—and by Black and Indigenous people of color, or BIPOC, in particular—in the United States also includes stress from the anticipation of discrimination and violence in everyday life, including in healthcare settings, which can contribute to depression, anxiety, and other mental health challenges; and

WHEREAS; from health outcomes to incarceration rates to wages and educational outcomes, Wisconsin is consistently ranked one of the worst states in the nation for racial disparities, specifically for BIPOC, and these disparities were further exacerbated by the challenges resulting from the coronavirus pandemic; and

WHEREAS; it is essential to recognize the importance of promoting practices that support behavioral health equity, which means ensuring that high-quality and culturally relevant resources and services are accessible to every Wisconsinite, especially to those who are most disproportionately impacted; and

WHEREAS; beginning in 2005, activists Bebe Moore Campbell and Linda Wharton-Boyd advocated for and succeeded in establishing July as National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month—now known as BIPOC Mental Health Awareness Month—which was first formally recognized by the United States House of Representatives in 2008; and

WHEREAS; this month, the state of Wisconsin reaffirms its commitment to promoting public awareness of mental health challenges, improving access to mental health treatment and services in communities of color, eliminating existing barriers to healthcare access, and prioritizing the behavioral and mental health needs of those most disproportionately impacted by poor mental health outcomes;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,
do hereby proclaim July 2023 as

BIPOC MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

throughout the State of Wisconsin and I commend this observance
to all our state's residents.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have
hereunto set my hand and caused the
Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin
to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in
the City of Madison this 30th day of
June 2023.

TONY EVERS
GOVERNOR

by the Governor

SARAH GODLEWSKI
Secretary of State