

**PROPOSED COUNTY/CITY PROCLAMATIONS SUPPORTING MS's CCBHC EFFORTS**

WHEREAS, prevalence rates of serious mental illnesses in jails are three to six times higher than for the general population; and almost three-quarters of adults with serious mental illnesses in jails have co-occurring substance use disorders; and

WHEREAS, without the appropriate treatment and services, people with mental illnesses continue to cycle through the criminal justice system, often resulting in tragic outcomes for these individuals and their families; and

WHEREAS, Certified Community Behavioral Health Centers (CCBHCs) are designed to provide a comprehensive range of mental health and substance use disorder services to vulnerable individuals; with an emphasis on the provision of 24-hour crisis care, utilization of evidence-based practices, care coordination and integration with physical health care.

WHEREAS, mental illness affects more than 431,000 Mississippians. These are our friends, family members, and neighbors. Of these, 80% of Mississippians live in a community experiencing a shortage of health professionals. These needs are particularly acute in rural areas.

WHEREAS, CCBHCs will Improve access to and delivery of community-based behavioral health services, and:

- Address gaps or barriers to care in Mississippi
- Establish sustainable funding for additional investment in quality, evidence-based mental health and substance use services.
- Offer more competitive wages because of the cost-based reimbursement that can aid in alleviating workforce shortages.
- Be accountable for quality outcomes.
- Engage stakeholders and consumers of mental health services, including youth, family members, and community leaders, to provide input on a customizable approach to care that increases responsiveness to the needs of Mississippians.

WHEREAS, <<INSERT YOUR COUNTY'S NAME>> and all counties take pride in their responsibility to protect and enhance the health, welfare and safety of its residents in efficient and cost-effective ways; and support the expansion of the Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (or CCBHC) program.

NOW, THEREFORE, <<INSERT YOUR COUNTY'S NAME>, support the expansion of the Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (or CCBHC) program. Programs such as CCBHCs give community behavioral health agencies more tools to successfully recruit and retain additional staff members as well as resources to ensure that consumers have access to critical, evidence-based services.

PASSED AND APPROVED in this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, <<YEAR>>.

By: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: Title:

By: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: Title: