

# SAMPLE PROCLAMATION

Encourage your local public officials to go on the record in support of BIPOC mental health. Below, please find a sample proclamation that designates July as Bebe Moore Campbell National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month. An official signing of a proclamation is a perfect occasion for a news event, photo opportunity, or other activity.

WHEREAS, A sense of belonging and inclusion in communities is vital for the well-being and mental health of BIPOC individuals; and

WHEREAS, Community-led spaces such as cultural hubs, areas in which people of a specific cultural background have come together to live, provide services, or connect with one another, are vital sources of belonging that promote overall mental health and wellness; and

WHEREAS, Connection with one's culture and community is key to supporting overall mental health. Individuals who have strong connections to their communities have better mental health outcomes including lower rates of suicide, violence, and feelings of isolation; and

WHEREAS, No one knows a community better than those within the community itself. In order to move toward a more mentally healthy future, community-led action must be prioritized and sustained; and

WHEREAS, Advocating for mentally healthy environments must prioritize access for all. Strong community support requires an overall understanding that every person is deserving of a healthy environment and has a role in the wellness of those around them.

THEREFORE, I [NAME OF PUBLIC OFFICIAL], do hereby proclaim July 2023 as Bebe Moore Campbell National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month in [STATE OR COMMUNITY]. As the [TITLE OF LOCAL OFFICIAL], I also call upon the citizens, government agencies, public and private institutions, businesses, and schools in [STATE OR COMMUNITY] to recommit our community to increasing awareness and understanding of BIPOC mental health, the steps our citizens can take to protect their mental health through community-led action and organizing, and the need for appropriate and accessible services for all BIPOC people with mental health conditions.



**MENTAL HEALTH  
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Mental Health Association Oklahoma is a partner agency of the Tulsa Area United Way and the United Way of Central Oklahoma.