

Commonwealth of Massachusetts



A Proclamation

His Excellency Governor Deval L. Patrick

Whereas The citizens of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts value their own physical and mental health and that of their families; and

Whereas Studies show that at least one in five children and adolescents have a mental health disorder, some of whom will not receive the proper services and treatment and one-half of all lifetime instances of mental illness begin before age 14; and

Whereas Children and youth with mental health needs in elementary, middle and high school are more likely to be bullied, absent, suspended, expelled or fail to graduate; and

Whereas It is important that children and adolescents, along with their families and communities, learn about the warning signs of mental health problems and where to obtain necessary assistance and treatment that will allow youth better opportunities to lead full and productive lives; and

Whereas Obtaining a full and accurate diagnosis of a child requires gathering information from diverse sources, including the family, school and those involved with that child or youth; and

Whereas The participation of family members in the assessment and treatment of children and adolescents is integral to positive clinical outcomes; and

Whereas Children's Mental Health Week was developed by families of children with emotional, behavioral and mental health needs, to focus on the needs of their children and families; in celebrating this year's theme: "Building Circles of Wellness" it is fitting to increase public awareness among all Massachusetts citizens of this important issue; and

Whereas Through public awareness, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts seeks to focus on the needs of children with emotional, behavioral, and mental health needs, along with their families,

Now, Therefore, I, **Deval L. Patrick**, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, do hereby proclaim May 4th – 10th, 2014, to be,

CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH WEEK

And urge all the citizens of the Commonwealth to take cognizance of this event and participate fittingly in its observance.

Given at the Executive Chamber in Boston, this fifteenth day of April, in the year two thousand and fourteen, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and thirty-seventh.

By His Excellency

DEVAL L. PATRICK
GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH

WILLIAM FRANCIS GALVIN
SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH

God Save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts