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<th>Resolution No.</th>
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<td>124-32 (LS)</td>
<td>Dennis G. Rodriguez, Jr., V.Anthony Ada, Aline A. Yamashita, Ph.D.</td>
<td>Relative to recognizing the month of May as “Mental Health Month” with the theme entitled “Pathways to Wellness” and extending a warm and sincere Un Dangkolo Na Si Yu’us Ma’a se to the staff and management of the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse (DMHSA) for their continued care to the well-being of our island community.</td>
<td>4/30/13 11:14 a.m.</td>
<td>5/6/13 4pm</td>
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Relative to recognizing the staff and management of the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse (DMHSA) on the observance of the month of May as “Mental Health Month,” with the theme: “Pathways to Wellness”; and to further extending a warm and sincere Un Dångkolo Na Si Yu’os Ma’åse’ to them for their continued care for the well-being of our island community.

BE IT RESOLVED BY I MINA'TRENTAI DOS NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN:

WHEREAS, the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse is the state agency which provides mental health care services for children, youth and
adolescents, young adults and adults, whose vision is: "That more caring communities will be visible throughout the island in promoting positive mental health and healthy lifestyle through prevention and education strategies; and that the practice of ensuring delivery of mandated mental health services reflects collaborative engagement and a Standard of Excellence"; and

**WHEREAS**, on our island of Guåhan, we all experience difficulty and stress with our everyday dealings with life, and oftentimes some may require mental health intervention. Positive mental health is essential to the well-being of every child, woman, and man in the community, our nation and our world. The participation of the community as a whole serves an integral role in caring for the well-being of individuals seeking help; and

**WHEREAS**, mental illness does not discriminate. Anyone at any given time, regardless of age, gender, race, social status or income level, can be affected. The DMHSA continues to work hard in ensuring that proper and necessary care is provided, as these services are crucial to the needs of affected individuals and their families; and

**WHEREAS**, a strong body of research must continue to support specific tools that Guamanians can utilize to better handle challenges, in order to protect their health and overall well-being; and

**WHEREAS**, it is important that the community of Guåhan promotes recovery and awareness, in order to combat stigma and discrimination which hinders individuals from seeking mental health services; and

**WHEREAS**, prevention is an effective way to help reduce the burden Guamanians experience with mental health conditions. The staff and management of the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse work hard and ensure that they make their valuable time to be available to assist the consumers; and with
effective treatment, individuals experiencing mental health conditions can recover and live productive lives; and

WHEREAS, mental illness is fast becoming the leading cause of disability in the United States, often resulting in many days of work lost annually, due to a decline in productivity. Access to medication and treatment in our community helps prevent people from ending up in emergency rooms, correction facilities, becoming homeless, and to the extent of preventing incidents of suicide; and

WHEREAS, advocacy for sound social policies is significant, and to have better accessibility to medication and treatment for overall mental health conditions is crucial, as having positive mental health is fundamental to the future of our people; and

WHEREAS, mental health services is a community effort and responsibility, where each of the businesses, schools, government agencies, health care providers, organizations, and citizens share in the burden of mental health problems, and can often promote wellness to the island community; and

WHEREAS, the staff and management of the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse, as well as the various programs that provide care and assistance to the individuals and families in need, devote their valuable time and efforts in assisting with the needs of the affected; and

WHEREAS, in March 2013, the National Association of Social Workers, Guam Chapter, named Ms. Reina Sanchez, M.A., as the “Social Worker of the Year”; and bestowed the Healing Hearts Program with the “Exemplary Service Provider” award for their excellence in the work field and for their continued efforts in advocating for the well-being of our island community; now therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that I Mina’Trentai Dos Na Liheslaturan Guåhan does hereby, on behalf of the people of Guam, recognize and commend the staff and
management of the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse (DMHSA) on the observance of the month of May as “Mental Health Month,” with the theme: “Pathways to Wellness”; and does further extend a warm Un Dângkolo Na Sì Yu’os Ma’åse’ to them for their continued care for the well-being of our island community; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Speaker certify, and the Legislative Secretary attest to, the adoption hereof, and that copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to Mr. Rey Vega, Director, Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse; and to the Honorable Edward J.B. Calvo, I Maga’lahen Guåhan.

DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY I MINA’TRENTAI DOS NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN ON THE 30TH DAY OF APRIL, 2013.

JUDITH T. WON PAT, Ed.D.  TINA ROSE MUÑA BARNES
Speaker Legislative Secretary