

**Board of Chosen Freeholders
Morris County, New Jersey**

Resolution No. 10

Adopted: April 27, 2016

WHEREAS, the Morris County Board of Chosen Freeholders, along with the Morris County Department of Human Services, recognize that one in four Americans has experienced mental illness, including substance use, in a given year according to the National Institute of Mental Health; and

WHEREAS, mental health problems are more common than cancer and heart disease combined, affecting children and adults, including more than half of our Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans treated at Veteran's Administration hospitals;

WHEREAS, given the serious nature of this public health problem, we must continue to reach the millions who need help;

WHEREAS, the stigma associated with mental health and substance use disorders is identified as the primary reason individuals fail to seek the help they need to recover from these disorders; and

WHEREAS, Stigma-Free Communities aims to inspire public interest and opens dialogue about stigma, raise awareness of mental health and substance use disorders and creates a culture wherein residents with mental health and substance use disorders feel supported by their community and neighbors, free to seek treatment without fear of stigma; and

WHEREAS, promoting awareness that there can be no "health" without mental health will break down barriers and encourage residents of all ages to be mindful of their mental health and ask for help when needed; and

WHEREAS, local resources are available to treat mental health and substance use disorders so no one needs to suffer alone or feel hopeless; and

WHEREAS, establishing Stigma-Free Communities will raise awareness of resources and encourage residents to engage in care as soon as the need is identified so recovery can begin, hope is inspired and tragedies are avoided;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Morris County Board of Chosen Freeholders, along with the Morris County Department of Human Services declares Morris County a Stigma Free Community, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Morris County Board of Chosen Freeholders supports the designation of Stigma-Free Communities in every municipality throughout the county.

I hereby certify the above to be a true copy of a resolution adopted by the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Morris at a regular meeting on April 27, 2016.



Diane M. Ketchum, Clerk of the Board