

*PROCLAMATION
MENTAL HEALTH AND TRAUMA
AWARENESS MONTH*

WHEREAS, Pennsylvania's Office of the Governor, and Office of Advocacy and Reform recognize the month of May Mental Health & Trauma Awareness Month, and May 25th to be Trauma Awareness Day, in the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, The term Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) comes from the landmark 1998 study by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Kaiser Permanente. It describes 10 categories of adversities in three domains experienced by age 18 years: abuse, neglect, and/or household dysfunction.

WHEREAS, ACEs are negative life events or experiences that occur before the age of 18. The number of ACEs is strongly connected to the risk for health problems in adults, including chronic diseases, mental health problems, substance use, and other risky behaviors.

WHEREAS, There is substantial evidence that promoting Safe Stable Nurturing Relationships can be effective in reducing child maltreatment.

WHEREAS, one in eight Pennsylvania adults report having experienced four or more of such traumatic experiences during childhood; and

WHEREAS, research has shown that prevention of prolonged exposure to toxic stress, early intervention, trauma specific treatment and building resilience of children and families can mitigate the impact of trauma; and

WHEREAS, Trauma Awareness Month promotes awareness of the impact of trauma and its effects, and promotes resiliency in families and communities;

WHEREAS, A trauma informed community is focused on being inclusive and recognizing the strengths of the residents to create healing community. A trauma informed community strives to do no harm and recognizes past and ongoing traumas such as historic and structural racism, exclusion, isolation and the chronic, daily stressors of concentrated poverty and exposure to community violence.



WHEREAS, The City of Lancaster is committed to building a stronger and more equitable Lancaster, block by block. The City has made commitments to racial and social equity across all departments and to building: Strong neighborhoods, safe streets, secure incomes and sound government.


WHEREAS, Lancaster City Departments are completing trauma awareness trainings and assessing department policies and practices.

WHEREAS, over 7,000 residents of Lancaster County have completed trauma awareness education,

WHEREAS, More than 50 organizations from different sectors of the Lancaster community including social services, health care, law enforcement, education and housing have been involved in working groups, planning and delivering trainings across the community,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mayor Danene Sorace, Mayor of the City of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, do hereby proclaim May 2022 to be "Mental Health & Trauma Awareness Month" and May 25, 2022 to be "Trauma Awareness Day" throughout the City of Lancaster, and join advocates and support service programs in the belief that all community members must be part of the solution to prevent and address trauma, especially among children, and call upon the people and organizations throughout the City to observe this month with appropriate programs, activities, and ceremonies.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of this City to be affixed.


Danene Sorace, Mayor
May 2022

