

**May is Mental Health Month  
Proclamation**

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Surgeon General states that mental health is fundamental to health and indispensable to personal well-being, family and interpersonal relationships, and contributes to community and society; and

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Surgeon General confirms that mental illness affects one in five Americans every year, regardless of age, gender, race, ethnicity, religion or economic status; and

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Surgeon General has found that a range of treatment exists for most mental disorders and the efficacy of mental health treatments are well documented; and

**WHEREAS**, Otter Tail County has made a commitment to community-based systems of mental health care for all residents and has appointed Local Mental Health Advisory Committee for children and adults.

**WHEREAS**, the guiding principles of community mental health care have always been comprehensiveness, cost-efficiency, effective management and high-quality and consumer responsive services, and these principles are now being adopted by private and public healthcare payers; and

**WHEREAS**, the National Mental Health Association, the National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare and their national partners, the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill and their local affiliates observe Mental Health Month every May to raise awareness and understanding of mental health and illness;

**THEREFORE**, we, **The Otter Tail County Human Services Board**, by virtue of the authority vested in us as County Commissioners of **Otter Tail County**, do hereby proclaim **May 2009 Mental Health Month in Otter Tail County**. As County Commissioners of Otter Tail County we call all citizens, government agencies, public and private institutions, business and schools to recommit our community to increasing awareness and understanding of mental illness and the need for appropriate and accessible services for all people with mental illness.

**Adopted this 14<sup>th</sup> day of April 2009**

By: Everett P. Erickson  
Chairperson  
Otter Tail County Human Service Board

Attest: Larry Krohn  
Larry Krohn, Clerk