



Whereas, the citizens of WINCHENDON value their health and mental health and that of their families; therefore, they are proud to support observances such as Children's Mental Health Week; and

Whereas, 20% of children and youth live with a mental health condition and 50% of all lifetime instances of mental illness begin before age 14; and even some children and youth with the most intense needs and some who are insured may not receive services; 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, recognizing the early warning signs of mental health needs and obtaining the necessary support, assistance and treatment gives children and youth better opportunities to lead full and productive lives at home, in schools, and in their communities; and

Whereas, the involvement and partnership of family members in the assessment and treatment of children and youth is essential to positive outcomes; and

Whereas, our nation's future depends on the health and well-being of its families and their children; and

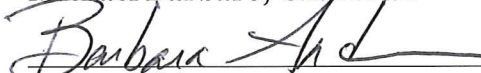
Whereas, Children's Mental Health Week was developed by families of children with emotional, behavioral and mental health needs, to focus on the needs of their children and families; in celebrating this year's theme: "Painting a Picture of Hope for the Future," it is fitting to increase public awareness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

Now, Therefore, we, the Board of Selectmen of Winchendon, Massachusetts, do hereby proclaim **May 2-8, 2021** as

CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WEEK


Michael Barbaro, Chairman


Rick Ward, Vice-Chairman


Barbara Anderson, Selectwoman


Audrey LaBrie, Selectwoman

Amy Salter, Selectwoman



Date