

## Resolution #9-R-23

Resolution Supporting Mental Health Awareness and Services in the City of Appleton

*Submitted by:* Alderperson Nate Wolff – District 12

*Date:* August 16, 2023

*Referred To:* Board of Health

Summary:

The resolution aims to address the urgent need to enhance mental health support and promote overall well-being in our community. Recognizing the rising prevalence of mental health disorders and their impact on individuals, families, and communities, this resolution acknowledges the significance of prioritizing mental health care as an integral part of public health.

WHEREAS, mental health is an essential component of overall health and well-being; and

WHEREAS, mental illness affects individuals of all ages, races, genders, and socio-economic backgrounds; and

WHEREAS, mental health disorders can lead to significant personal, social, and economic costs for individuals, families, and communities; and

WHEREAS, access to mental health services and support is critical for individuals to lead healthy and fulfilling lives; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the importance of mental health and the need for increased access to mental health services; and

WHEREAS, the city of Appleton recognizes the importance of promoting mental health awareness, reducing stigma associated with mental illness, and increasing access to mental health services;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Common Council of the City of Appleton, that:

Be it further resolved, the city of Appleton recognizes the importance of mental health and the impact of mental illness on individuals, families, and communities.

Be it further resolved, the city of Appleton commits to promoting mental health awareness and reducing stigma associated with mental illness through public education campaigns, community events, and partnerships with local mental health organizations.

Be it further resolved, the city of Appleton supports increased access to mental health services and encourages the expansion of mental health services, including telemedicine and other innovative approaches to increase access.

Be it further resolved, the city of Appleton will continue to work collaboratively with local mental health organizations and other stakeholders to identify gaps in mental health services and develop strategies to address those gaps.

Be it further resolved, the city of Appleton encourages employers and schools to provide mental health resources and support to their employees and students.

Be it further resolved, the city of Appleton encourages state and federal policymakers to prioritize mental health and increase funding for mental health services and research.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Common Council is directed to forward a copy of this resolution to the Mayor, local mental health organizations, the Wisconsin State Legislature, and members of congress in Wisconsin.