

Township of West Milford

Passaic County, New Jersey

~ Resolution 2019 – 071 ~

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WEST MILFORD, COUNTY OF PASSAIC, STATE OF NEW JERSEY ADOPTING STIGMA-FREE ZONES

WHEREAS, the Passaic County Board of Chosen Freeholders, along with the Passaic County Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, and the Mental Health Association in Passaic County, supports the designation of **Stigma-Free Zones** in every municipality, and;

WHEREAS, the National Institute of Mental Health reports that 1 in 4 adults experiences mental illness in a given year and 1 in 7 adults live with a serious mental illness such as schizophrenia, major depression, or bipolar disorder; approximately 20% of youth ages 8 to 15 experience severe mental disorders in a given year, and;

WHEREAS, the stigma associated with the disease of mental illness is identified as the primary reason individuals fail to seek the help they need to recover from the disease, and;

WHEREAS, **Stigma-Free Zones** aim to inspire public interest and open dialogues about stigma, raise awareness of the disease of mental illness and create a culture wherein residents who have the disease of mental illness feel supported by their community and neighbors and feel free to seek treatment for the disease 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 the disease of mental illness so no one resident needs to suffer alone or feel hopeless, and;

WHEREAS, establishing **Stigma-Free Zones** 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 Township of West Milford recognizes the community needs and supports the efforts of the County of Passaic in designating the Township of West Milford as a **Stigma-Free Zone**.

Adopted: March 6, 2019

Adopted this 6th day of March, 2019
and certified as a true copy of an original.

Antoinette Battaglia, Township Clerk