

Item Title: Proclamation Recognizing October as Bullying Prevention Month

Specific Action Requested:

That the Board of Commissioners proclaims October 2017 as Bullying Prevention Month and encourages stakeholders across the community to educate our children, parents and the broader community to *stand up, speak out*.

Item Summary:

In October 2016, Wake County's primary convener of youth development providers in the County, YouthThrive, stood side by side with the Chair of the Wake County Board of County Commissioners, County Manager, Chair of the Wake School Board, and the United Way Director to issue a "Call to Action" to our community to help increase the high school graduation rate and to eliminate youth suicides. Since that time, YouthThrive has mobilized more 40 individuals representing 25 committed organizations to work on action teams to develop and implement aligned actions that support educational success and emotional well-being for all youth in Wake County.

Bullying is one issue in our community that affects both a young person's ability to engage in learning and their long-term emotional well-being. Partners involved in YouthThrive have worked together to launch a new Bullying Prevention Campaign and are working with schools, community and faith-based organizations, parents and students to encourage victims, peers, caring adults and parents to *stand up, speak out*. Too often, victims suffer while caring adults try to figure out what is happening with their young person and peers stand by in silence.

YouthThrive has released a Tool Kit that shares research, encourages meaningful activities, recommends policy to promote a culture of safety and connection in all the spaces where our young people live, learn, work and play. Wake County Public Schools, Alliance Behavioral Health, Wake County Human Services, 4-H Youth Development, Interact, YMCA, the Family Resource Center and the Poe Center for Health Education are a few partners directly involved. The Board of County Commissioners, municipal leaders from across the County and the School Board are all valued partners in raising awareness and encouraging everyone to take action.

Cooperative Extension Director, Katherine Williams chairs the YouthThrive Board. Along with Human Services Director, Regina Petteway, and Wake County Sheriff's Office Juvenile Investigator, Juan Callado, they represent Wake County on the YouthThrive Board to bring about collective impact for youth across Wake County. The organization has a new Executive Director, Shelia Reich, who will be introduced along with this agenda item.

Attachments:

1. Bullying Prevention Month Proclamation