

RESOLUTION 2023-23

**RESOLUTION OF THE BEN HILL COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
URGING THE GOVERNOR AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA TO
CONTINUE EFFORTS TO REFORM AND IMPROVE MENTAL HEALTH
SERVICES FOR THE CITIZENS OF GEORGIA**

WHEREAS, being the constitutional level of government closest to their constituents, Georgia counties are on the front lines of responding to mental health issues within the community as well as the development of mental health reform efforts; and

WHEREAS, the Ben Hill County Board of Commissioners supports efforts designed to provide every citizen in need to have accessible, affordable, and adequate mental health services; and

WHEREAS, the Ben Hill County Board of Commissioners is grateful for the efforts of Georgia's executive, legislative, and judicial branches in working towards mental health reform in recent years, such as the passage of HB 1013 (2022) and introduction of HB 520 (2023), Chief Justice Boggs's work on jail diversion initiatives, and Governor Kemp's commitment to expanding mental health resources in schools for children and young adults; and

WHEREAS, despite these prior steps and successes, the Ben Hill County Board of Commissioners recognizes that there is still a tremendous amount of work for the citizens of Ben Hill County and other citizens across Georgia to receive adequate healthcare for mental health and substance abuse disorders; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Ben Hill County Board of Commissioners that Ben Hill County government reaffirms its commitment to reforming and improving mental health services for its citizens and all citizens of the state of Georgia.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Ben Hill County Board of Commissioners specifically urges the Governor and General Assembly to continue efforts in the 2024 Session of the Georgia General Assembly to enhance Georgia citizens' access to vital mental health services, including the provision of state budgetary funding for additional behavioral health crisis centers across the state, additional co-responder units, and other resources to assist those with mental health and substance abuse disorders.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk to the Board of Commissioners is hereby directed to provide an executed copy of this Resolution to each member of the Ben Hill County delegation to the Georgia Senate and Georgia House of Representatives and to the Association County Commissioners of Georgia.

SO RESOLVED, this 3rd day of **October, 2023**.

BEN HILL COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

By:

Ben Hill County, Chairman

ATTEST:

Ben Hill County, Clerk