



# Proclamation

BY THESE PRESENTS, BE IT KNOWN that the Board of County Commissioners of Johnson County, Kansas, presents this Proclamation for recognition of

## *NATIONAL CO-RESPONDER AND CRISIS RESPONDER WEEK*

WHEREAS, Johnson County, Kansas has continued to address the rising demand for mental health and substance use services; and

WHEREAS, mental health and substance use challenges can lead to homelessness, incarceration and emergency room visits, which are more intrusive and costly for communities than earlier interventions and connections to behavioral health services; and

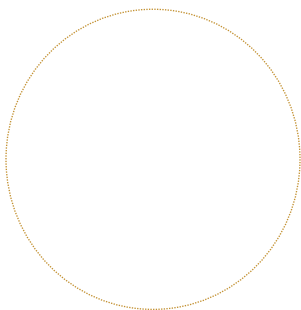
WHEREAS, Johnson County, Kansas has recognized the need for additional resources for individuals experiencing mental health crises and identified co-responders and mobile crisis teams as an emerging, effective practice; and

WHEREAS, Johnson County Mental Health Center’s Co-Responder Program was established in 2011 to embed mental health clinicians with law enforcement agencies to respond collaboratively to individuals in crisis, provide the right intervention at the right time to avoid arrests, emergency room visits, and repeat 911 calls by connecting to appropriate resources; and

WHEREAS, Johnson County Mental Health Center’s Mobile Crisis Response Team includes mental health clinicians and crisis case managers that provide screenings, assessments, and connections to appropriate to resources like counseling, medication, housing, and other basic necessities, further reducing the need for unnecessary first responder interactions and hospitalizations; and

WHEREAS, today, the Co-Responder Program has 20.5 co-responder positions and 15 partnerships with local law enforcement agencies, and the Mobile Crisis Response Team has 10 positions, including three new positions approved by the Board of County Commissioners last month; and

THEREFORE, in recognition of their service to our community, the Johnson County Board of County Commissioners do hereby proclaim the week of September 18th as “National Co-Responder and Crisis Responder Week” in Johnson County, Kansas.



Signed, Sealed and Presented this the 14th day of September  
in the year 2023  
Board of County Commissioners  
Johnson County, Kansas

.....  
MIKE KELLY, Chairman