

# Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors Proclamation

HONORING THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH EQUITY COLLABORATIVE (BHEC)  
AND SANTA CRUZ COUNTY RESIDENTS

WHEREAS, the Behavioral Health Equity Collaborative (BHEC) declares its steadfast support for the LGBTQ+ community, aligning closely with Santa Cruz County's equity statement which emphasizes unwavering support, dignity, and compassion for individuals of every orientation, identity, and expression; and

WHEREAS, both the BHEC and Santa Cruz County are committed to creating inclusive environments where everyone can thrive and belong, reflecting a shared commitment to equity and access for all; and

WHEREAS, behavioral health equity ensures that all individuals have opportunities to access mental health and substance use services, resources, and support, addressing disparities and barriers to care based on factors such as race, ethnicity, national origin, preferred language, ability, sexual orientation, gender identity, socioeconomic status, religious affiliation, and education level; and

WHEREAS, the BHEC believes in the fundamental principles of compassion, empathy, and understanding, driving advocacy for accessible and equitable behavioral health services for all, free from discrimination, stigma, or bias; and

WHEREAS, the BHEC acknowledges the unique behavioral health challenges faced by members of the LGBTQ+ community and is committed to addressing these disparities by providing comprehensive support, resources, and care; and

WHEREAS, the BHEC is resolute in creating safe and inclusive environments within practices, organizations, and communities, advocating for policies and practices that protect the rights and well-being of LGBTQ+ individuals and affirm them through inclusive evidence-based care; and

WHEREAS, the BHEC calls upon fellow organizations, community leaders, and individuals to join in the collective effort to build a society where everyone can live authentically, free from discrimination and prejudice; and

WHEREAS, the BHEC recognizes the significance of adopting a culturally responsive and inclusive approach to providing outstanding care to the LGBTQ+ community, encouraging others to join in this pursuit.

NOW, THEREFORE, I Justin Cummings, Third District Supervisor of Santa Cruz County do hereby honor the Behavioral Health Equity Collaborative (BHEC), our LGBTQ+ community and their allies who work diligently to create a community where everyone, regardless of their sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression, can access the behavioral health services and support they need to thrive and live with dignity and respect.



  
Member, Board of Supervisors

July 2, 2024

Date