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**Subject:** Children's Mental Health Awareness Week Rally  
**Location:** Statehouse Steps  
**When:** 5/6/2015 10:30:00 AM - 11:00:00 AM

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Advance: Jamie Maxwell  
(864)323-4238

**APPROVED BY:** NH on 2/24

**EVENT:** Children's Mental Health Awareness Week Rally

**DATE:** Wednesday, May 6, 2015

**TIME:** 10:50-11:10 AM (10:30- 11:30 AM)

**LOCATION:** North Steps, Statehouse Grounds

**LOCATION SET-UP:** Podium, Speakers will stand behind the podium when not speaking. They will have reserved seating on the front row.

**ON-SITE LOCATION CONTACT:** BPS and Linda Gordon

**SCHEDULING CONTACT:**

Diane Flashnick  
(803) 772-5210  
[Diane.flashnick@fedfamsc.org](mailto:Diane.flashnick@fedfamsc.org)

**PRIMARY STAFF:** Ashton Lee

**ADVANCE STAFF:** Zach Pippin

**PURPOSE:** Governor Haley will attend and give remarks at the Children's Mental Health Awareness Week Rally. The Governor will present her proclamation declaring Children's Mental Health Week.

**PRESS:** Yes.

**PUBLIC:** Yes.

**INVITED BY:** Diane Flashnick, Executive Director of Federation of Families of SC

**INTRODUCED BY:** Diane Flashnick, Executive Director of Federation of Families of SC

**LENGTH OF SPEAKING:** 5-7 minutes of remarks. Read the proclamation.

**SPEAKING ORDER/LINE-BY-LINE:**

10:30 AM Welcome-Diane Flashnick  
10:33 AM John Magill, Director, Department of Mental Health  
10:37 AM Sen. Thomas Alexander  
10:45 AM Christian Soura, Director DHHS

10:50 AM Gov. Haley Arrives  
10:55 AM Gov. Haley  
11:10 AM Gov. Haley Departs  
11:10 AM Parent Story  
11:2 AM Youth Story

**BACKGROUND:**

**SUGGESTED TALKING POINTS:**

**PROCLAMATION WORDING:**

**WHEREAS,** ensuring the mental health of our children is essential to their growth and development; and

**WHEREAS,** according to the United States Department of Health and Human Services, an estimated 1 in 5 children and adolescents between the ages of 9 and 17 suffer from identifiable mental, emotional, or behavioral problems that require treatment; and

**WHEREAS,** the participation of family members in the assessment and treatment of children and adolescents with mental health disorders is integral to positive clinical outcomes; and

**WHEREAS,** learning to recognize the early warning signs of mental health problems and where to obtain necessary assistance and treatment gives children and adolescents better opportunities to lead full and productive lives.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I,** Nikki R. Haley, Governor of the great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim May 3 - 9, 2015, as

**CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH WEEK**

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to work together to raise awareness of the mental health needs of the children of the Palmetto State.

**PRESS RELEASE:**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

May 4, 2015

**CONTACT:** Diane Flashnick, Executive Director

Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health of South Carolina (803) 772-5210, email [diane.flashnick@fedfamsc.org](mailto:diane.flashnick@fedfamsc.org)

**National Recognition of Children's Mental Health Awareness Week will be held May 3-9, 2014.**

**Governor Nikki Haley will proclaim May 3<sup>rd</sup> -9<sup>th</sup>, 2015 "Children's Mental Health Awareness Week" in South Carolina! Rally to be held Wednesday, May 6<sup>th</sup> at 10:30AM, on the State Capitol-North-Gervais Street Side Steps.**

**Columbia, SC** — Wednesday, May 6<sup>th</sup> 2015, join children's mental health advocates, families sharing youth and parent stories, and stakeholders at the rally to recognize Children's Mental Health Awareness Week and support the importance including mental health in all public health conversations. Mental Health is essential to overall health. We must treat mental health challenges with the same urgency and respect as we treat physical health challenges. Holistic health depends on our ability to be well, mind and body, which can be achieved through integrated care across systems. No more shame. No more silence.

"The annual Children's Mental Health Awareness Week Rally at the state capitol is an opportunity for us to join with over a thousand communities across the country in celebrating the positive impact that we can

have on the lives of young people when we are able to provide education around the importance of promoting mental wellness of children into every environment, and reduce the negative stigma surrounding mental illness" said Diane Flashnick, Executive Director, Federation of Families of South Carolina. "We must look at the whole child, a healthy mind is a critical component to a healthy body."

- **1 in 5** Children in South Carolina Experiences a Mental Health Disorder
- The treatment success rate for children's mental health disorders is **80%**.
- **25%** of all pediatric hospitalizations are related to mental health issues.
- Approximately **50%** of students 14 and older living with a mental illness drop out of high school.
- In any given year, only **20%** of children with mental disorders are identified and receive mental health services
- **Suicide** is the third leading cause of death of youth aged 15 to 24 nationwide.

**For more information visit: [www.fedfamsc.org](http://www.fedfamsc.org) or call the Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health of SC at 866-779-0402.**

**Federation of Families of SC is the state chapter of the National Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health**