

MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

- Whereas, The National PTA has long been committed to providing improved mental health programs and services to children and youth; and
- Whereas, The National PTA, through convention action in 1969, reaffirmed this commitment; and
- Whereas, All children and youth have the right to mental health treatment; therefore be it
- Resolved, That the National PTA reaffirm its 1969 resolution on Children's Emotional Health*; and be it further
- Resolved, That the National PTA and its branches encourage each community to make available mental health programs and services which will meet the needs of all children and youth.

Amend the resolution "Children's Emotional Health" by making the revisions as follows:

*** CHILDREN'S EMOTIONAL HEALTH AND MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS**

- Whereas, ~~The National PTA Congress of Parents and Teachers is~~ **and its constituent associations are** deeply concerned about the increasing number of children suffering from ~~serious~~ **mental and emotional health and wellness conditions. According to the National Alliance on Mental Health, 20% of youth ages 13-18 live with a mental health condition** ~~disorders~~; and
- ~~Whereas, It is engaged in an expanded program of mental health through the project on Children's Emotional Health in cooperation with the National Institute of Mental Health; and~~
- Whereas, ~~It recognizes that sound~~ **Mental illness can negatively impact** ~~health is essential to constructive family life, and~~ **personal happiness, and to the acceptance of civic responsibility and completion of one's education; 37% of students with a mental health condition, age 14 and older, drop out of school—the highest dropout rate of any disability group**; and
- ~~Whereas, It realizes that mentally healthy home, school, and community environments are essential to the development of proper attitudes towards oneself and others;— therefore be it~~
- Whereas, **Schools and other educational agencies are feeling the adverse effects of mental illness on students, families and communities. The National School Boards Association reports "The odds are, therefore, that every classroom in every school has at least one student with a mental health disorder. Of those who have a mental health disorder, only one out of five will receive any treatment." The majority of young people who do receive mental health treatment do so at school; and**

Whereas, Mental illness and disorders affect so many children and teens ages 6 to 17 that 79% of them do not receive mental health care. The average delay between onset of symptoms and intervention is 8-10 years and 90% of youth ages 10-24 that died by suicide had an underlying mental illness; and

Whereas, An environment of acceptance of the reality, prevalence and effects of mental illness in the home, school and community environments is essential to the development of supportive approaches towards those who suffer from mental illness; and therefore be it

Resolved, That ~~the National PTA Congress of Parents and Teachers~~ and its constituent associations strongly ~~endorses~~ encourage efforts to: establish comprehensive community mental health providers to offer preventative and treatment services to children and adults and comprehensive school mental health programs that include adequate access to school psychologists, school counselors and school social workers; and be it

- ~~1. Establish comprehensive community mental health facilities to provide preventive and treatment services to children and adults.~~
2. **Resolved,** That National PTA and its constituent associations advocate for ~~improve~~ teacher and administrator **training to improve the** understanding of child **emotional and mental health needs with emphasis on the importance of establishing a growth and development to insure the provision of an emotional climate in the school climate** conducive to good mental health; **and be it**
3. **Resolved,** That National PTA and its constituent associations **P**-promote educational programs for parents **and families to strengthen understanding and supportive home environment; and be it** ~~improve the atmosphere of the home.~~

4. Resolved, The National PTA and its constituent associations support efforts to ~~provide~~ education and other supports for school staff and professional development to assist with addressing mental health issues and ~~special preventive services in the school to detect~~ impending difficulties early (emphasis on early detection); and be it
5. ~~Urge that teacher training institutions incorporate in their programs—~~ courses designed to give greater emphasis to children's emotional health.
6. Resolved, That National PTA and its constituent associations support and encourage reducing the stigma of mental illness and build a ~~community of understanding around children and youth mental health. conditions adversely affecting children's emotional health.~~ Improve

Adopted: by the 1973 Convention Delegates
Reviewed: by the 1993 and 1998 Convention Resolutions Committee