

Sponsor(s) : County Council
Adopted : April 4, 2023
Committee Referral : N/A
Committee Consideration Date : N/A
Committee Recommendation : N/A

RESOLUTION NO. 23-R-25

COUNCIL-ADMINISTRATOR FORM OF GOVERNMENT FOR COLLETON COUNTY

[To Declare April Child Abuse Prevention and Sexual Assault Awareness Month.]

WHEREAS:

1. South Carolina's future prosperity is dependent on nurturing the healthy development of the 1.1 million children currently residing in the diverse communities across our state; and
2. Preventing child abuse, neglect, and sexual assault must be a community priority that requires individuals, families, child-serving organizations, schools, faith-based groups, businesses, government agencies, colleges, and civic leaders to support the physical, emotional, social and educational development and competency of all children and adults; and
3. Child abuse and sexual assault are public health issues with serious societal consequences, as data shows the link between the abuse, neglect, and assault of children and adults and a wide range of costly medical, emotional, psychological and behavioral problems into adulthood; and
4. One in ten children will be sexually abused before their 18th birthday, one in four women in their lifetime, and one in 33 men in their lifetime; and
5. Parents and caregivers who have a circle of family and friends, know how to find help in times of need, and understand how their children grow are better equipped to take on life's challenges and provide a safe, caring environment for their children; and
6. Child abuse and violence prevention programs not only give individuals, families, and children the knowledge and resources to learn, grow, and thrive but also serve as a proven and effective way to reduce child abuse and neglect; and
7. In 2022, Hopeful Horizons assisted a record number of women and children needing shelter 77 women with 98 children. A total of 5,286 nights of safety were provided- average length of stay was 30 days; assisted 63 women and their children in moving from shelter housing to permanent housing; supported 63 women and their children with rent subsidies that helped them get back on their feet and in their own safe housing.
8. In 2022, Hopeful Horizons family advocates served 493 families, 379 forensic interviews and 50 forensic medicals.
9. In 2022, Hopeful Horizon's child therapy and services team provided services to 740

children and teens.

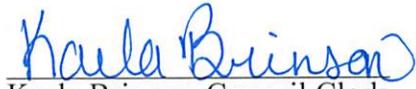
10. The County of Colleton, in conjunction with Hopeful Horizons and concerned citizens around the state, designates the month of April as Child Abuse Prevention and Sexual Assault Awareness Month while urging all citizens to dedicate themselves to protect the quality of life for every child and every adult.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COLLETON COUNTY COUNCIL DULY ASSEMBLED THAT:

County Council hereby proclaims April 2023 as Child Abuse Prevention and Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

ATTEST:

SIGNED:


Kaela Brinson, Council Clerk


Steven D. Murdaugh, Chairman

COUNCIL VOTE: UNANIMOUS
OPPOSED: