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# Mental Health Awareness Month proclamation in Baldwin County

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DAPHNE, AL (WALA) - The National Alliance on Mental Illness estimates one in four adults has been diagnosed with a mental illness.

On Thursday, April 28, 2016 Baldwin County Probate Judge Tim Russell signed a proclamation declaring May as Mental Health Awareness Month in Baldwin County.

The ceremony took place at Eastpointe Hospital in Daphne, the area's only free standing psychiatric hospital. It is run by Altapointe Health Systems. Last year, Altapointe provided services to more than 23,000 people in Mobile and Baldwin counties. The common diagnoses are depression disorder, mood disorder, schizophrenia and bipolar disorder.

"Everyone is touched in some way because all of these are our citizens our fellow brothers and sisters that need our help and we are the ones that have the responsibility of caring for them at such an important time" says Judge Russell.

Baldwin County Commissioner Chris Elliot was present for the signing. He supports mental health funding. Elliot says mental health issues are a huge driver to local, county and municipal budgets.

"We see impacts of inadequate mental health funding when we have to deal with those mental health problems in corrections facilities, in corrections circumstances and juvenile justice circumstances as well and that's why I'm here today to promote the new health awareness and frankly adequate funding for mental health in the proper settings of the proper facilities," says Elliot.

Alabama Governor Robert Bentley is expected to sign a similar proclamation declaring May as Mental Health Awareness Month in Alabama. If you or someone you know need mental health service, you can call Altapointe at (251) 450-2211.

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