



Town of Miami Lakes Memorandum

To: Honorable Mayor and Honorable Councilmembers

From: Honorable Councilmember Luis Collazo

Subject: Mental Health Awareness Task Force

Date: June 16, 2020

Recommendation:

This item requires the waiver of Section 7.2 of the Special Rules of Order

In the Town of Miami Lakes, we have made ongoing efforts to bring attention to mental health issues in a variety of ways. We have supported causes such as the, Victor Ruiz Foundation's "Out of the Darkness" Walk to bring awareness to suicide prevention. We have hosted weekly social media segments on mental health and wellness through our social media channels. Many of our committees, like the Veterans Affairs Committee, Public Safety Committee, and the Elderly Affairs Committee, have made efforts to spearhead and highlight issues related to mental health.

Breaking the stigma associated with mental health treatment and those individuals in recovery only happens when there is an open dialogue, and I am proud of the efforts we have made.

In an effort to continue advancing this dialogue I wanted to have a discussion with my colleagues with regards to formalizing a Mental Health Advisory Task Force. The Mental Health Advisory Task Force would be comprised of individuals from the Elderly Affairs Committee, the Public Safety Committee, Veterans Affairs Committee, Youth Activities Task Force, Education Advisory Board, Special Needs Advisory Board, Youth Council, and (2) other mental health professional from our community. The Task Force would be convened for a period not to exceed 9 months, in order to provide the Town with a set of recommendations on how we could continue to support efforts to address the stigma associated with mental health treatment and possibly identify gaps and possible solutions to addressing those gaps in our community. If adopted my intention is that the committee would sunset after the recommendations and accompanying work plan have been adopted.

Fiscal Impact: TBD

Funding Source for Implementation: TBD

Timeline for Implementation: TBD

Guiding Principles: 1, 2, 6, 7, 11, 14

Objectives: 6