



**2019
BOROUGH OF DUMONT
ORDINANCE**

MEMBERS	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
CHAE	✓			
ENGLESE	✓			
LaBRUNO				✓
MANNA	✓			
ROSSILLO				✓
STEWART	✓			
MAYOR KELLY				
TOTALS	4			2

Ordinance No. 1562
 Date: April 2, 2019
 Page: 1 of 4
 Subject: Stigma-free Committee
 Purpose: Establishment
 Dollar Amount: _____

Offered by: Stewart
 Seconded by: Englese

Prepared By: Susan Connelly, RMC

Certified as a true copy of an Ordinance Introduced and Passed by the Governing Body of the Borough of Dumont on the above date at a Public Meeting by:

Susan Connelly

Susan Connelly, RMC, Municipal Clerk
Borough of Dumont, Bergen County, New Jersey

An Ordinance of the Borough of Dumont, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey

**AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A STIGMA-FREE COMMITTEE FOR THE
BOROUGH OF DUMONT**

WHEREAS, the National Institute of Mental Health reports that 1 in 4 adults experiences mental illness in a given year and 1 in 17 adults live with a serious mental illness such as schizophrenia, major depression, or bipolar disorder; approximately 20% of youth ages 13 to 18 and 13% of youth ages 8 to 15 experience severe mental disorders in a given year; and

WHEREAS, mental health problems are more common than cancer and heart disease combined, affecting children and adults, including more than half of our Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans treated at Veteran's Administration hospitals; and

WHEREAS, the stigma associated with the disease of mental illness is identified as the primary reason individuals fail to seek the help they need to recover from the disease; and

WHEREAS, the Bergen County Executive and the Board of Chosen Freeholders, along with the Bergen County Department of Health Services, supports the designation of "Stigma-Free Zones" in every municipality; and

WHEREAS, establishing such Stigma-Free Zones raises awareness of resources and encourages residents to engage in care as soon as the need is identified so recovery can begin, hope is inspired, and tragedies are avoided; and

WHEREAS, on February 3, 2015, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Dumont, New Jersey adopted Resolution No. 15-65 establishing the Borough of Dumont as a "Stigma-Free Zone"; and

WHEREAS, the establishment of the Borough of Dumont Stigma-Free Zone aimed to inspire public interest and open dialogues about stigma, raise awareness of the disease of mental illness, and create a culture wherein Dumont residents who have the disease feel supported by their community and neighbors and feel free to seek treatment for the disease without fear of stigma; and

WHEREAS, the establishment of a Stigma-Free Committee is necessary to implement the above aims, to help bring Dumont's Stigma-Free campaign to life, and to enhance the culture of caring in our community; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Dumont, New Jersey recognize the community need and desire to adopt an Ordinance in order to establish a Stigma-Free Committee within the Borough of Dumont, County of Bergen; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council deem it is in the best interests of the Borough of Dumont to establish a Stigma-Free Committee;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Dumont, County of Bergen, and State of New Jersey as follows:

SECTION 1: ESTABLISHMENT.

There is hereby established the Stigma-Free Committee of the Borough of Dumont having the powers and duties hereinafter enumerated.

SECTION 2: MEMBERSHIP; TERMS.

The Stigma-Free Committee shall consist of seven (7) members appointed by the Mayor with the advice and consent of the Borough Council. All regular members shall serve for a term

of two (2) years, commencing on January 1, except for initial appointments made hereunder which members shall be designated to serve staggered terms as follows: two members shall be appointed for one year (term expiring December 31, 2019), two members shall be appointed for two years (term expiring December 31, 2020), and three members shall be appointed for three years (term expiring December 31, 2021). All appointments to fill vacancies shall be promptly filled by appointment by the Mayor with the advice and consent of the Borough Council for the unexpired term thereof. Members shall serve for their respective term and until their successors are appointed and qualify.

SECTION 3: OFFICERS; COMPENSATION.

The members of the Stigma-Free Committee shall select from among themselves a Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary to serve through December 31 of each year. Members of the Committee shall serve without compensation.

SECTION 4: POWERS AND DUTIES.

The mission of the Stigma-Free Committee is to reduce, and to strive to eradicate, the stigma associated with mental illness from the community of Dumont. The Committee is hereby granted and shall have and exercise, in addition to the specific powers and duties herein granted, all powers necessary and appropriate to carry out and execute its mission, including but not limited to the following:

(a) To raise awareness within the community of the disease of mental illness, and to create a culture wherein residents who have the disease feel supported by their community and neighbors and feel free to seek treatment for the disease without fear of stigma or feelings of isolation and shame;

(b) To disseminate information and distribute educational, informational and promotional materials, in all available media formats, to foster a stigma-free environment where residents are free from judgment and can get the help they need to recover from mental illness, including but not limited to lawn signs, road signs and banners, brochures, flyers, websites, social media presence, and Stigma-Free representations on Borough mailings, newsletters, websites, structures, and vehicles;

(c) To encourage residents to break down barriers and be mindful of their mental health and ask for help when needed, and engage in care as soon as the need is identified so recovery can begin, hope is inspired, and tragedies are avoided;

(d) To raise awareness of the local mental health resources available and that care is accessible regardless of income, and to link residents in need to local mental health resources;

(e) To educate residents and students that mental illness is a disease and must be treated as such, through the organization and hosting of informational and educational presentations, programs, events and activities, including but not limited to Mental Health First Aid training sessions for residents and Borough employees and first-responders, awareness walks, booths at

town-wide events and community days, poster contests within local middle schools, educational events for pre-school and elementary students, school assemblies, and Stigma-Free/mental illness awareness town concerts;

(f) To rally and encourage local government and business leaders, local community service groups and faith congregations, and students and young people to support, embrace and promote the Stigma-Free campaign; and

(g) To solicit, recruit, and utilize a supporting Stigma-Free Task Force, comprised of concerned residents, public officials, health care providers, educators and school district personnel, police department and emergency medical services personnel, local clergy leaders, representatives of local community groups and service organizations, and others working together to eradicate from the community of Dumont the stigma associated with mental illness.

SECTION 5: EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS.

The Borough Council may annually appropriate funds for the use of the Stigma-Free Committee and such funds may be expended on the authority and approval of the Committee upon submission of proper vouchers.

SECTION 6: MEETING DATES.

The Stigma-Free Committee shall meet monthly at the Borough of Dumont Municipal Building, at such dates and times as shall be established at its first meeting of the calendar year.

SECTION 7: SEVERABILITY.

All provisions of this Ordinance are severable. If for any reason any provision of this Ordinance is held to be invalid, the validity of the remainder of the Ordinance shall not be affected.

SECTION 8: EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon posting, publication, and final passage in the manner prescribed by law.

Susan Connelly, RMC
Municipal Clerk

James J. Kelly, Mayor

Introduced: April 2, 2019
Adopted: