

# Proclamation

WHEREAS, Sue Abderholden has served with extraordinary dedication and visionary leadership as Executive Director of the National Alliance for Mental Illness (NAMI) in Minnesota for 24 years, guiding the organization through more than two decades of growth, advocacy, and unwavering service to individuals and families impacted by mental illness, transforming the organization into a statewide powerhouse; and

WHEREAS, Her leadership has led to groundbreaking and compassionate policy changes, including requiring mental health training for educators, ending harmful school practices like seclusion and restraint, protecting children from being forced into child protection to access care, reforming civil commitment laws, expanding mobile crisis services, and limiting solitary confinement for people with mental illnesses in prisons; and

WHEREAS, Sue Abderholden's tireless advocacy has shaped policy across all sectors—education, health care, housing, criminal justice, and employment—resulting in stronger parity laws, increased access to culturally responsive services, expanded mental health benefits in public programs, and a more diverse and better-supported mental health workforce; and

WHEREAS, Sue has built lasting and inclusive partnerships with stakeholders from all corners of Minnesota—including individuals with mental illness, families, providers, educators, law enforcement, legislators, and public health leaders—cementing NAMI Minnesota's role as both a trusted resource and a catalyst for change; and

WHEREAS, Sue's legacy has been recognized with numerous awards and honors, including the Health Equity Award from the Minneapolis Health Department, the National Advocacy Leadership Award from the National Council for Behavioral Health, and the Distinguished Citizen Award from Macalester College, among many others—testaments to her profound impact and unwavering commitment; and

WHEREAS, Ramsey County recognizes and celebrates the incredible career and legacy of Sue Abderholden on the occasion of her retirement as Executive Director of NAMI Minnesota, and extend our deepest gratitude for her service, her leadership, and her unwavering belief in the dignity and worth of every individual. Now, Therefore, Be It

PROCLAIMED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners declares August 12, 2025 as Sue Abderholden Day in Ramsey County in honor of her transformative contributions to mental health advocacy, her exceptional public service, and her steadfast commitment to building a better, more compassionate Minnesota for all.




Rafael Ortega, Board Chair, District 5



Tara Jebens-Singh, Commissioner, District 1



Mary Jo McGuire, Commissioner, District 2



Garrison McMurtrey, Commissioner, District 3



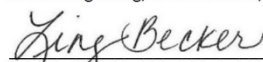
Rena Moran, Commissioner, District 4



Mai Chong Xiong, Commissioner, District 6



Kelly Miller, Commissioner, District 7



Ling Becker, County Manager