



# COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA CALIFORNIA

## RESOLUTION FOR COMMENDATION FOR SUZANNE GRIMMSEY EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH, DECEMBER 2022

**WHEREAS**, Suzanne Grimmesey began her career with the County in 1997 as a Mental Health Practitioner II with the former Department of Alcohol, Drug, and Mental Health Services (ADMHS), now known as Behavioral Wellness (BWell); she then spent 4 years in the Quality Care Management Branch filling a variety of vital roles including: hospital liaison with emergency response services to reduce patient hospitalizations, audit preparation and utilization management, and training coordination for department staff; due to her skill in project management and organization, she was promoted over the next several years where she served as branch chief over Clinical Services; and then over Quality Care Management, Policy and Procedures, Staff Development Training and Cultural Competence; and

**WHEREAS**, Suzanne, a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, served as BWell's Chief Strategy Officer and Public Information Officer, since 2013 and then as PIO/Chief of Strategy and Community Engagement beginning in 2021, where she provides expertise countywide to both the community at-large, and Santa Barbara County employees, in all matters of critical incident response, debriefing, and grief counseling; and during the COVID-19 pandemic has provided various county departments with support in managing staff burnout and assisting in the recovery and return-to-work challenges faced by many county staff this past year; and

**WHEREAS**, through her efforts and leadership in the community, Suzanne organized a vast and multi-specialty Community Wellness Team network of local providers in the wake of the Thomas Fire, that supported community members in the aftermath of the Debris Flow, and remains an active and responsive network responding to all matters of crises and local emergencies throughout the County; and

**WHEREAS**, Suzanne Grimmesey is a proud and loving Mom to two beautiful daughters and a son, and a new son-in-law, as well as a self-less doting Dog-Mom to four canines, including three Great Danes and a Shepherd/Pit Bull Mix; and whose extraordinary patience and exceedingly calm demeanor provides the Department Director and the BWell staff, in general, a sense of psychological safety that inspires self-confidence and contributes to maximum work performance throughout the Department; and

**WHEREAS**, Suzanne Grimmesey is also extremely compassionate and well-respected, is able to connect easily with others, and is accessible and highly responsive to residents throughout the region to provide vital information and resources regarding the County of Santa Barbara and the Department of Behavioral Wellness services whenever needed; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED AND ORDERED** that the Board of Supervisors recognizes Suzanne Grimmesey as the employee of the month for December 2022.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Board of Supervisors of Santa Barbara County, State of California this 13<sup>th</sup> day of December 2022 by the unanimous vote of the members present.



**ATTEST:** *Monique Pavesato*  
Clerk of the Board

*Pasquillo*  
Supervisor - 1st District  
*Ray Hunt*  
Supervisor - 2nd District  
*Jan Houtre*  
Supervisor - 3rd District  
*Bob Nho*  
Supervisor - 4th District  
*St. Juan*  
Supervisor - 5th District