

RESOLUTION NO. 24-240

**RESOLUTION FOR COMMENDATION
BEHAVIORAL WELLNESS DIVISION
EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH, NOVEMBER 2024**

WHEREAS, Bernard Hicks exemplifies the County's organizational values of Accountability, Customer Focus, Equity & Inclusion, Innovation, Trust, and Ethics; and

WHEREAS, Bernard Hicks models the transformative behaviors of Collaborative Problem Solving, Alignment with the County's Vision, Risk Taking, Data-Driven Decision Making, and Strategic Thinking; and

WHEREAS Bernard Hicks has been a dedicated member of the Behavioral Wellness (BWELL) team for 11 and a half years, including the past 7 and a half years as an Alcohol and Drug Service Specialist with the Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) program since its inception in 2017. For several years, he was the sole AOT staff member in South County, often managing outreach and case management services for over 25 individuals at a time; and

WHEREAS During his time with AOT, Bernard Hicks has earned a reputation as a staff member who consistently goes above and beyond to serve those in our community most in need. His clients often include individuals experiencing severe and persistent mental illness, substance use issues, homelessness, involvement in the criminal justice system, and experience frequent hospitalizations; and

WHEREAS Bernard Hicks efforts are marked by his commitment to meeting individuals "where they are," whether that be in homeless encampments, jails, the PHF, CSU, probation offices, or emergency departments. His tireless work and compassion have helped many individuals find stability and a sense of purpose in their lives. He is recognized for his ability to build rapport, earn trust, and help clients access essential services. He has earned a "legendary" status among colleagues, other departments, and community organizations, including NAMI, Families Act, Public Defenders Office, Cottage Hospital, and numerous family members who have praised his efforts.

THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED AND ORDERED that Bernard Hicks is recognized as an invaluable asset to the Department and the community, embodying the values of care, compassion, and dedication that Behavioral Wellness strives to provide.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of Santa Barbara County, State of California this 5th day of November, 2024 by unanimous vote of all members present.