## WAYS TO STOP THE STIGMA WRONGLY PLACED ON MENTAL HEALTH BY: Melissa Jeremiah, RN, CHCE

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As we are entering into the holiday season; I thought this would be the best time of the year to remind everyone how important our mental health is. Here's to a Safe and Healthy New Year!

- 1. Chose empowerment
- 2. Tell others how you feel
- 3. Get the treatment you need
- 4. Educate yourself and others
- 5. Open up to those who love you
- 6. Talk openly about mental health in your home and with friends and family
- 7. Remember physical and mental health are equal
- 8. Don't reject others
- 9. Help to normalize mental health
- 10. Show compassion for others
- 11. Be honest about your treatment

I would love to see the day where everyone who is struggling with a mental health issue would feel comfortable about opening up that they need to get help; without having the added pressure and fear that someone will make them feel stigmatized. There is no difference between needing treatment for your blood pressure, diabetes, broken arm or cancer; and needing treatment for your depression, anxiety, addiction or other mental health needs.