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## Melbourne R. Moran Jr.: Critical role of small businesses in mental health care

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Melbourne Moran Jr.

Ryan Smith Visuals

MAY IS Mental Health Awareness Month – a time to break the stigma, promote education, and encourage access to care. As our country faces rising rates of anxiety, depression, and burnout, the need for mental health services has never been greater. While awareness campaigns and national organizations play critical roles, one often-overlooked cornerstone of mental wellness is the small-business mental health agency – the local clinics, practices, and providers who are deeply embedded in the communities they serve.

These local mental health agencies are not branches of large corporations. They are local mom and pop counseling shops owned and operated by licensed clinicians who live and work right alongside their clients. These professionals aren't answering to shareholders or national franchise boards – they're answering to the needs of their neighbors.

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Hon. Melbourne Moran Jr. is CEO of Wanderlust Therapeutic Services, PLLC. He lives in Nashua.

