

**RESOLUTION FOR COMMENDATION
SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH
SANTA BARBARA COUNTY – SEPTEMBER 2020**

WHEREAS, This Resolution recognizes suicide as a national and statewide public mental health problem, and suicide prevention as a national and statewide responsibility, and designates the month of September as “National Suicide Prevention Month” in Santa Barbara County. This month overlaps World Suicide Prevention Day, September 10th, recognized internationally and supported by the World Health Organization.

WHEREAS, the impact of COVID-19 has had a significant impact on many leaving feelings of isolation, loneliness, economic impact and job loss, and depression which greatly impact the mental health of people and thoughts leading to suicide;

WHEREAS, in our country, suicide is the 2nd leading cause of death for 10-34 year olds, and is the 10th leading cause of death for people of all ages;

WHEREAS, each person’s death by suicide exposes at least 135 other people, with over 6.9 million newly bereaved each year; in 2017, 4,312 residents of California died by suicide, and several thousand friends and family members were changed forever by losing those people;

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors who are dedicated to reducing the frequency of suicide attempts and deaths, and the pain for those affected by suicide deaths, through research projects, educational programs, intervention services, and bereavement services urges that all Californians:

1. Recognize suicide as a significant public health problem in California and declare suicide prevention a statewide priority;
2. Support the development of accessible behavioral health services for all regions of our county, implementing national best practices in reducing suicide risk for people of all ages and backgrounds
3. Acknowledge that no single suicide prevention effort will be sufficient or appropriate for all populations or communities; and
4. Encourage initiatives based on the goals and activities contained in the National Strategy for Suicide Prevention, Zero Suicide of the National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention, and The Way Forward by the Action Alliance’s suicide attempt survivor task force.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED AND RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors recognizes the Month of September as Suicide Prevention Month in Santa Barbara County.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of Santa Barbara County, State of California, this 10th day of September 2020, by the unanimous votes of the members present.