

RESOLUTION NO. 25-194

County of Santa Barbara

RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING SEPTEMBER 2025 SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH IN SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

WHEREAS, suicide is a significant public health issue affecting individuals, families, and communities, with 49,316 lives lost in the United States in 2023; and in California, suicide is the second leading cause of death among individuals aged 15-34, with more than 4,000 deaths annually, with men dying by suicide at 3 to 4 times the rate of women, often by firearms; and

WHEREAS, in 2024, Santa Barbara County lost 37 community members to suicide—though a decrease from the prior year, it underscores the ongoing need for prevention, crisis response, and community outreach; and

WHEREAS, over 90% of people who die by suicide have a diagnosable and treatable mental health condition, yet stigma, lack of access, and fear of discrimination often prevent individuals from receiving care; and

WHEREAS, it is essential for all community members to recognize warning signs, encourage open conversations about mental health, and promote available resources, including the 24/7 Access and Crisis Line at 888-868-1649, as well as mental health trainings; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Behavioral Wellness, in partnership with organizations such as the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, is committed to saving lives and bringing hope to those affected by suicide through education, advocacy, research, and community resources;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY ORDERED AND RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara does hereby acknowledge September 2025 as Suicide Prevention Month in Santa Barbara County and:

1. Recognizes suicide as a preventable public health concern and commits to supporting prevention campaigns and initiatives;
2. Expresses sympathy to those who have lost loved ones to suicide and honors their memory through continued action;
3. Promotes stigma-free environments that encourage help-seeking and mental wellness;
4. Affirms that suicide prevention is a shared responsibility requiring inclusive, connected, and compassionate communities;
5. Supports the implementation of a local Suicide Prevention Plan aligned with state and national strategies.

PASSED AND ADOPTED, by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara, State of California, this 9 day of September, 2025 by a unanimous vote of all members present.



Mona Diaz
ATTEST: Clerk of the Board

[Signature]
Supervisor - 1st District

[Signature]
Supervisor - 2nd District

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Supervisor - 3rd District

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Supervisor - 4th District

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Supervisor - 5th District



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