



COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA CALIFORNIA

RESOLUTION FOR COMMENDATION SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH SANTA BARBARA COUNTY – SEPTEMBER 2023

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, suicide continues to be a global public health concern, claiming the lives of millions each year and leaving a devastating impact on families, communities, and societies;

WHEREAS, the Center for Disease Control's provisional data for 2022 shows a record high of 49,369 suicide deaths, coming after modest declines in 2019 and 2020. This provisional data from last year also shows the highest number of firearm-related suicides on record, driving the overall increases in suicide deaths to record levels, and that suicide deaths are increasing fastest among people of color, younger individuals, and people who live in rural areas.

WHEREAS, Suicide Prevention Month provides an opportunity to raise awareness, educate, and mobilize communities to take-action in preventing suicide and supporting those in emotional distress;

WHEREAS, the theme for Suicide Prevention Month 2023 is "Connect, Communicate, Care," highlighting the importance of human connections and the role they play in saving lives;

WHEREAS, the Department of Behavioral Wellness in partnership with other community resources, plays a critical role in offering prevention, intervention, and treatment for individuals struggling with mental health challenges and/or addiction;

WHEREAS, the collective community can create a supportive environment that prioritizes mental health and well-being and provides space for open conversations on these topics including acknowledging feelings of hopelessness and the promotion of healing from trauma and despair;

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

1. Recognizes the significance of Suicide Prevention Month and commit to actively participating in awareness campaigns, events, and initiatives throughout September 2023;
2. Commit to creating stigma-free environments that foster open conversations about mental health and encourage individuals to seek help without fear or judgement or discrimination;
3. Acknowledge that suicide prevention is a collective responsibility, and we will work together to build supportive, connected, and empathetic communities where every life is valued and cherished;
4. We express our deepest sympathy to those who have lost loved ones to death by suicide and honor their memories by taking meaningful actions to prevent future tragedies;
5. Affirm that everyone has a role to play in suicide prevention, and by connecting, communicating, and caring for one another, we can make a positive difference and save lives.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of Santa Barbara County, State of California, this 12th day of September 2023, by the unanimous votes of the members present.



Monica Reyes
Clerk of the Board

Pat Hillmer
Supervisor - 1st District

Luuk Capp
Supervisor - 2nd District

Joan Bauer
Supervisor - 3rd District

Bob Weber
Supervisor - 4th District

John Swann
Supervisor - 5th District

ATTEST: