

JOINT PROCLAMATION

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF LARIMER COUNTY AND LARIMER COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

A Joint Proclamation Designating September 2023 as Suicide Prevention Month in Larimer County

WHEREAS, the month of September 2023 is National Suicide Prevention Month, a time in which individuals, organizations and communities around the country join their voices to amplify the message that suicide can be prevented; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Larimer County and the Larimer County Board of Health have a joint interest in the prevention of suicide in Larimer County; and

WHEREAS, the Alliance for Suicide Prevention of Larimer County, the Larimer County Juvenile Gun Safety Coalition, and Larimer County's Departments of Community Justice Alternatives and Behavioral Health Services work to prevent suicide in Larimer County; and

WHEREAS, many people in Larimer County are faced with stressful life events, prolonged stress, substance use disorders, and mental health conditions; and

WHEREAS, good mental health is a critical part of overall health and is essential at every stage of life; and

WHEREAS, having access to lethal means, such as firearms, increases the risk of suicide, and residents can help by keeping firearms safely stored and locked; and

WHEREAS, statistically in Larimer County, a suicide occurs every 4-5 days and is the second leading cause of youth deaths; and

WHEREAS, knowing the signs of suicide and finding the words to communicate with someone, in addition to reaching out to local resources, can help prevent a suicide; and

WHEREAS, all resident of Larimer County have access to free suicide prevention training so they are equipped with knowledge of the signs of suicide, the appropriate language to communicate with someone, and the local resources to refer that person to so that lives are saved; and

WHEREAS, grief following a suicide is often a complex and overwhelming experience, and support is available; and

WHEREAS, effective behavioral health care, connectedness to supportive family and community, building resiliency, and being active in social groups and activities are protective factors against suicide; and

WHEREAS, a 2024 Larimer County Community Health Improvement Plan priority area focuses on increasing social support and connection for older adults, youth, families, communities of color, LGBTQIA, Veterans, and persons living with disabilities with an emphasis on equity; and

WHEREAS, all Larimer County residents are urged to play a role in suicide prevention and in promoting mental health and wellness as we strive towards zero suicides; and

WHEREAS, September is recognized across the United States as Suicide Prevention Month, which provides the opportunity to educate the community about the warning signs for suicide and how to reach out and connect to those experiencing an emotional crisis or loss; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT PROCLAIMED, by the Larimer County Board of Health and all members of the Larimer County Board of County Commissioners that September 2023 be declared 'SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH' in Larimer County.

Done this 21st day of September, 2023, in Fort Collins, Colorado, by the Larimer County Board of Health.

Done this 12th of September, 2023, in Fort Collins, Colorado, by the Larimer County Board of County Commissioners.

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF LARIMER COUNTY, COLORADO

By: Jody Shadduck-McNally
Jody Shadduck-McNally, Chair

ATTEST: Tessa Beatty
Clerk to the Board

THE LARIMER COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

By: Tony J. Van Goor
Dr. Tony J. Van Goor, President

ATTEST: Tom Gonzales
Tom Gonzales, Secretary

