



COUNTY OF SONOMA

575 ADMINISTRATION
DRIVE, ROOM 102A
SANTA ROSA, CA 95403

SUMMARY REPORT

Agenda Date: 9/12/2023

To: County of Sonoma Board of Supervisors
Department or Agency Name(s): Department of Health Services
Staff Name and Phone Number: Tina Rivera, 707-565-4774
Vote Requirement: Majority
Supervisory District(s): Countywide

Recommended Action:

Adopt a gold resolution proclaiming the month of September 2023 as Suicide Prevention Month in Sonoma County.

Executive Summary:

The Sonoma County Department of Health Services (hereinafter, "DHS" or "the Department") requests that the Board adopt a gold resolution proclaiming the month of September 2023 as Suicide Prevention Month in Sonoma County.

Discussion:

Suicide is a major public health issue that requires vigilant attention and preventative action. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that suicide rates rose in the United States from 2000 to 2021 by 36 percent. (2022 data is still preliminary and rates have not been published by CDC - the rate is predicted to increase again.)

On average there are 73 deaths by suicide each year in Sonoma County, making suicide the ninth leading cause of death in the County. According to the California Department of Public Health report, the Sonoma County three-year average age-adjusted suicide death rate for 2020 through 2022 was 13.6 per 100,000 people per year, statistically higher than the California rate of 9.9 per 100,000 people per year (source: [<https://skylab.cdph.ca.gov/communityBurden/>](https://skylab.cdph.ca.gov/communityBurden/)).

In October of 2022, DHS Behavioral Health Division brought together community partners to create **Life Worth Living: Sonoma County Suicide Prevention Alliance**. The Alliance is developing a Sonoma County 5 Year Strategic Suicide Prevention Plan, and the plan is scheduled to be complete in early 2024. Upon completion, the Strategic Suicide Prevention Plan will be brought to the Board of Supervisors for review and approval.

Efforts to prevent suicide in Sonoma County are scheduled for Suicide Prevention Month. The September edition of the Mental Health Services Act Newsletter highlights several scheduled **free** activities that recognize Suicide Prevention Month including:

- 9/5 11am-2pm: Walk in the Light at The Lakes Behavioral Health Complex
- 9/10 10am-1pm: Connection is Prevention at the Old Courthouse Square
- 9/12 11am: What is QPR Wellness Advocacy Center

Agenda Date: 9/12/2023

- 9/23 9am: Out of the Darkness Walk at Sonoma State University
- 9/25 3pm-5pm: QPR Suicide Prevention Training at SCOE
- 9/26 9am-11am: QPR Suicide Prevention Training at SCOE
- 9/26 12pm-2pm: Lethal Means Safety Training at Finley Center

For more information about these events go to the Behavioral Health website at:

[<http://sonomacounty.ca.gov/Health/Behavioral-Health/>](http://sonomacounty.ca.gov/Health/Behavioral-Health/)

In support of National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month, and World Suicide Prevention Day (September 10, 2023). Suicide is Preventable is excited to provide the 2023 Suicide Prevention Activation Kit

[<https://www.suicideispreventable.org/prevention-kit.php>](https://www.suicideispreventable.org/prevention-kit.php).

The theme of this year's activation kit is **Share Hope Together**. The 2023 Suicide Prevention Activation Kit can be found here: [<https://www.eachmindmatters.org/spw2022/>](https://www.eachmindmatters.org/spw2022/)

Prior Board Actions:

Most recently, on August 9, 2022 the Board adopted a gold resolution proclaiming the month of September 2022 as Suicide Prevention Month in Sonoma County.

FISCAL SUMMARY

Expenditures	FY 23-24 Adopted	FY 24-25 Projected	FY 25-26 Projected
Budgeted Expenses			
Additional Appropriation Requested			
Total Expenditures	0	0	0
Funding Sources			
General Fund/WA GF			
State/Federal			
Fees/Other			
Use of Fund Balance			
Contingencies			
Total Sources	0	0	0

Narrative Explanation of Fiscal Impacts:

There are no fiscal impacts associated with this item.

Staffing Impacts:			
Position Title (Payroll Classification)	Monthly Salary Range (A-I Step)	Additions (Number)	Deletions (Number)

Narrative Explanation of Staffing Impacts (If Required):

Agenda Date: 9/12/2023

N/A

Attachments:

Attachment 1 - Resolution

Related Items “On File” with the Clerk of the Board:

None