



# Board of County Commissioners

## **Boulder County's 2024 Suicide Prevention Month Proclamation**

Whereas, it is estimated that there are currently more than 700,000 suicides per year worldwide, with 1290 suicides in Colorado in 2023, and each suicide profoundly affects many more people; and

Whereas, suicide has far-reaching social, emotional, and economic consequences; and

Whereas, September 10 is World Suicide Prevention Day and the World Health Organization's triennial theme, 'Changing the Narrative on Suicide', aims to raise awareness about the importance of reducing stigma and encouraging open conversations to prevent suicides; and

Whereas, changing the narrative on suicide is about transforming how we perceive this complex issue and shifting from a culture of silence and stigma to one of openness, understanding, and support; and

Whereas, this year's call to action is to 'start a conversation' encourages everyone to start the conversation on suicide and suicide prevention so we can break down barriers, raise awareness, and create better cultures of support; and

Whereas, while suicide prevention is important to address year-round, World Suicide Prevention Day and Suicide Prevention Month provide a dedicated time to come together with collective passion and strength to address this difficult topic; and

Whereas, Boulder County has recognized the significant need for those in suicidal crises, emotional distress and the impact of trauma through an emphasis and investment in resources for those in need of mental health navigation, mobile crisis response, and other community-based trusted resources has occurred through federal, regional, and local funding priorities is occurring; and

**Commissioner Claire Levy • Commissioner Marta Loachamin • Commissioner Ashley Stolzmann**

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Whereas, Boulder County residents, regardless of their ability to pay, can access 24/7 support through Colorado Crisis Services and Mental Health Partners; and

Whereas, Boulder County residents can access the WellMind Connection, a new service that's free for all community members and delivered by the county for anyone who needs help finding behavioral health, mental health, substance use treatment, or other supportive services; and

Whereas, Boulder County recognizes the importance of behavioral health programs (like Sources of Strength), which are focused on early intervention and prevention through promotion of resilience, protective factors, and social-emotional competencies that reduce suicide risk; and

Whereas, Boulder County recognizes the disparate impact on communities of color, LGBTQ+, and youth, and the importance of a countywide approach to increasing equitable access to mental health and social resilience is articulated in the community-driven Behavioral Health Roadmap.

Now therefore, the Boulder County Board of Commissioners, on behalf of Boulder County, do hereby proclaim that the month of September 2024 is recognized as Boulder County's Suicide Prevention Month and encourages all residents to raise awareness of suicide prevention and treatment and to know the risks and warning signs for suicide and what to do in a crisis.

Dated this 3rd day of September 2024.

Commissioner Claire Levy

Commissioner Marta Loachamin

Commissioner Ashley Stolzmann