

Resolution

ORDER NO. 2023-1032

DATE: September 19, 2023

STATE OF TEXAS §

COUNTY OF DALLAS §



BE IT REMEMBERED, at a regular meeting of the Commissioners Court of Dallas County, Texas, held on the 19th day of September 2023, on a motion made by Dr. Theresa M. Daniel, Commissioner District 1, and seconded by Dr. Elba Garcia, Commissioner District 4, the following Resolution was adopted:

WHEREAS, The Dallas County Commissioners Court recognizes September as National Suicide Awareness Month, a time designated to bring attention to the issue of suicide and to raise awareness about the resources and help available to those who are struggling; and

WHEREAS, Suicide is the eleventh leading cause of deaths in the United States. According to the Center for Disease Control, in 2021, an estimated 12.31 million adults thought about suicide, 3.5 million made a plan, and 1.7 million attempted suicide; and

WHEREAS, According to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP), a person dies by suicide approximately every two hours in Texas. In 2020, over 3,900 Texans lost their lives to suicide. Suicide has become the second leading cause of death for individuals 10-34 years old, the fifth leading cause for individuals 35-44 years old, and the eleventh leading cause of death across all age groups. Almost three times as many people died by suicide in 2019 than in alcohol-related motor vehicle accidents; and

WHEREAS, The Report on Suicide and Suicide Prevention in Texas 2022 Update reports that Texas has seen an overall increase in suicide mortality with the death rate rising 36.7 percent since the year 2000. Also, since 2000, individuals ages 25-29 saw the greatest increase of any age group with a 69 percent increase in suicide mortality rate, closely followed by individuals age 20-24 with an increase of 56.9 percent; and

WHEREAS, Changes in suicide mortality rates also varied by race and ethnicity from 2000-2020. Texas residents of Asian or Pacific Island descent had the largest increase in rate at 92.5 percent, Hispanic residents rate increased 59.6 percent, African American residents saw a 44.6 percent increase, and White, non-Hispanic residents maintained the highest rates, but only saw a 48.6 percent rate increase; and

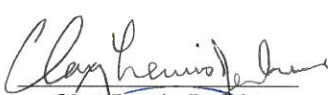
WHEREAS, American Foundation for Suicide Prevention reported that 67.12% of communities did not have enough mental health providers to serve residents in 2021. According to the Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute, 2 in 5 children in Dallas County face mental health and substance use disorders. Still, just 10 percent of children receive mental healthcare in integrated and primary care settings. A KERA news analysis reported in 2022 that Dallas County had 146 deaths by suicide in just the first half of the year; and


WHEREAS, The 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline is available nationwide for mental health, substance use and suicide crises. This helpline offers 24/7 call, text, and chat access with trained crisis counselors for individuals who need to quickly connect with support during a crisis; and

WHEREAS, Each year, nearly 50,000 lives across our nation are tragically lost to a community public health problem that is largely preventable. With a commitment to effective interventions to reduce risk factors and increase resilience, preventing suicide is within reach.

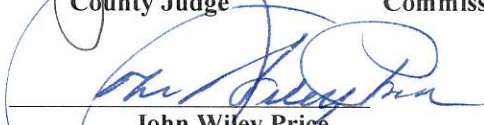
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Dallas County Commissioners Court does hereby recognize September as **National Suicide Awareness Month** and calls for action from government officials on all levels, public health workers, community leaders, residents, and stakeholders in sharing the responsibility of promoting suicide prevention on behalf of those who are suffering in silence. The Dallas County community is invited to join the Greater Dallas Suicide Prevention Coalition and community leaders at The Senior Source on September 29, 2023, from 10:30 a.m.– 11:30 a.m. to promote suicide awareness and prevention.


DONE IN OPEN COURT, this the 19th day of September 2023


Clay Lewis Jenkins,
County Judge


Dr. Theresa M. Daniel,
Commissioner, District 1


Andrew Sommerman,
Commissioner District 2


John Wiley Price,
Commissioner, District 3


Dr. Elba Garcia,
Commissioner, District 4