



PROCLAMATION DECLARING SEPTEMBER AS SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH

- WHEREAS:** In 2023, suicide was the 11th leading cause of death overall in the United States and the 2nd leading cause of death among individuals aged 10 to 34 years (Centers for Disease Control [CDC]); and
- WHEREAS:** In the United States in 2023, over 49,000 individuals died by suicide (CDC); and
- WHEREAS:** Suicide rates increased approximately 36% in the United States from 2000- 2023 (CDC); and
- WHEREAS:** In 2023, an estimated 12.8 million adults aged 18 years or older reported having serious thoughts of suicide and 1.5 million adults attempted suicide in the past year (National Survey on Drug Use and Health); and
- WHEREAS:** In 2023, two in ten high school students seriously considered attempting suicide and almost one in ten high school students reported that they had made at least one suicide attempt in the past year (Youth Risk Behavior Survey); and
- WHEREAS:** In Texas, suicide is the second leading cause of death for ages 15-34; and
- WHEREAS:** Over 90% of the people who die by suicide have a diagnosable and potentially treatable mental health condition, although often that condition is not recognized or treated; and
- WHEREAS:** The burden of suicide is estimated to cost over \$510 billion in medical, work loss, value of statistical life, and quality of life costs nationally (CDC); and
- WHEREAS:** The negative attitudes associated with mental health conditions and suicidal thoughts and behaviors work against suicide prevention by discouraging persons at risk for suicide from seeking life-saving help and further traumatizes survivors of suicide loss and people with lived experience of suicide; and
- WHEREAS:** If someone can get through the intense and short moment of an active suicidal crisis, they are unlikely to ultimately die from suicide; and
- WHEREAS:** Asking someone directly if they're thinking about suicide will not "put the idea in their head" and most will be relieved someone starts a conversation; and
- WHEREAS:** Most people who survive a suicide attempt (85-95%) go on to engage in life; and
- WHEREAS:** Everyone has a role to play in preventing suicide and can learn suicide risks and warning signs and encourage those who struggle to seek help; and
- WHEREAS:** Organizations such as The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention envision a world without suicide, and are dedicated to saving lives and bringing hope to those affected by suicide, through research, education, advocacy, and resources for those who have lost someone to suicide or struggled themselves, and urge that we:

1. Recognize suicide as a preventable national and state public health problem and declare suicide prevention to be a priority.
2. Acknowledge that no single suicide prevention program or effort will be appropriate for all populations or communities.

3. Encourage initiatives based on the goals contained in the 2024 National Strategy for Suicide Prevention.

4. Promote awareness that there is no single cause for suicide; that suicide is complex; that risk may increase for a person when multiple contributors (e.g., mental health conditions, substance use and physical health conditions and pain, past trauma) converge in the context of stress; and that when a person has access to lethal means they may die by suicide.

5. Develop and implement strategies to increase access to and the delivery of quality mental health, substance use, and suicide prevention crisis care and treatment and recovery services.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE CALDWELL COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT THAT, it does hereby declare the month of September 2025, as Suicide Prevention Month. It recognizes suicide as a preventable national and statewide public health problem, and suicide prevention as a national and statewide responsibility.

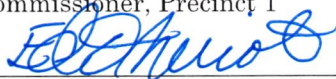
PROCLAIMED this 26th day of August, 2025.



Hoppy Haden
Caldwell County Judge



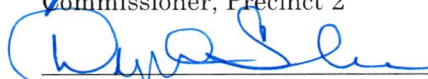
B.J. Westmoreland
Commissioner, Precinct 1



Ed Theriot
Commissioner, Precinct 3

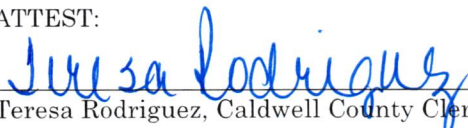


Rusty Horne
Commissioner, Precinct 2



Dyrall Thomas
Commissioner, Precinct 4

ATTEST:



Teresa Rodriguez, Caldwell County Clerk

