

Gordon County Proclamation Suicide Prevention Awareness Month

This Proclamation recognizes suicide as a county-wide public health problem, and suicide prevention as a county responsibility, and designates September as "Suicide Prevention Awareness Month" in Gordon County.

WHEREAS, suicide is the 10th leading cause of all deaths in the United States and the 3rd leading cause of death among individuals between the ages of 15 to 24;

WHEREAS, suicide is now the 10th leading cause of all deaths in the state of Georgia, and the 3rd leading cause of death among people from the age of 10 to 24 in Georgia;

WHEREAS, in the United States, one person completes suicide every 14.2 minutes;

WHEREAS, it is estimated that 4.73 million people in the United States are survivors of suicide (those who have lost a loved one to suicide);

WHEREAS, 50.8% of people who die by suicide use a firearm, and guns stored in the house are used for suicide 40 times more often than for self-protection;

WHEREAS, an increase in the overall suicide rate in our country was seen in 2009, representing a change in the recent pattern of stability or slight declines, the suicide rate for those 15-24 years old has more than double since the mid-1950s; and the suicide rate remains highest for adults 75 years of age and older;

WHEREAS, the stigma associated with mental illness and suicidality works against suicide prevention by discouraging persons at risk for suicide from seeking life-saving help and further traumatizes survivors of suicide;

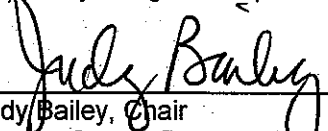
WHEREAS, statewide suicide prevention efforts should be developed and encouraged to the maximum extent possible;

WHEREAS, organizations such as the Georgia Suicide Prevention Action Network (SPAN), Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD), Suicide Prevention Resource Center, and Gordon County Suicide Prevention Coalition which are dedicated to reducing the frequency of suicide attempts and deaths, and the pain of survivors affected by suicides of loved ones, through educational programs, research projects, intervention services, and/or bereavement services urge that we:

1. Recognize suicide as a national and state public health problem and declare suicide prevention to be a statewide 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 *National Strategy for Suicide Prevention*
 - a. Promote awareness that suicide is a public health problem that is preventable.
 - b. Develop broad-based support for suicide prevention.
 - c. Develop and implement strategies to reduce the stigma associated with being a consumer of mental health, substance abuse, and suicide prevention services.
 - d. Develop and implement community-based suicide prevention programs.
 - e. Develop and implement community-based suicide bereavement support services.
 - f. Promote efforts to reduce access to lethal means and methods of self-harm.
 - g. Implement training for the recognition of at-risk behavior and for the delivery of the effective treatment.
 - h. Develop and promote effective clinical and professional practices.
 - i. Increase access to, and community linkages with, mental health and substance abuse in the entertainment and news media.
 - j. Improve reporting and portrayals of suicidal behavior, mental illness, and substance abuse in the entertainment and news media.
 - k. Promote and support research on suicide and suicide prevention.
 - l. Improve and expand surveillance systems for suicide behavior.

WHEREAS, a great many suicides are preventable;

THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED that, I, Judy Bailey, Board Chair of Gordon County Board of Commissioners, do hereby designate September, 2012, as "Suicide Prevention Awareness Month" in Gordon County.



Judy Bailey, Chair
Gordon County Board of Commissioners

September 4, 2012