

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

HENDERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MEETING DATE: September 2, 2025

SUBJECT: Designating September as Suicide Prevention Awareness Month

PRESENTER: G. David Jenkins, Public Health Director

ATTACHMENTS: Yes
I. Proclamation

SUMMARY OF REQUEST:

The Department of Public Health is requesting the Board of Commissioners to adopt a proclamation designating September as Suicide Prevention Awareness Month in Henderson County.

A resolution was adopted by the Henderson County Board of Health at their August 18, 2025, meeting to be forwarded to the Henderson County Board of Commissioners for consideration and adoption.

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

The Board is requested to review the attached Proclamation, and to adopt as presented.

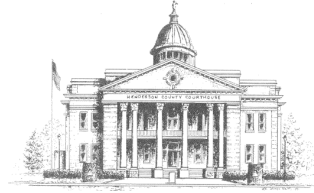
SUGGESTED MOTION:

I move that the Board adopt the attached Proclamation, designating September as Suicide Prevention Awareness Month in Henderson County.

Henderson County Board of Commissioners

1 Historic Courthouse Square • Suite 1 • Hendersonville, NC 28792
Phone (828) 697-4808 • Fax (828) 692-9855 • www.hendersoncountync.gov

William Lapsley
Chairman
J. Michael Edney
Vice-Chairman



Rebecca McCall
Jay Egolf
Sheila Franklin

Proclamation Suicide Prevention Awareness Month – September 2024

WHEREAS, suicide is a leading cause of death in the United States, taking more than 49,000 lives annually, and continues to be a growing public health concern across all age groups; and

WHEREAS, older men in Henderson County die by suicide at higher rates than any other demographic, and national trends show significant increases in suicide rates among youth, and among Black, Indigenous, and People of Color; and

WHEREAS, the 2024 Henderson County Community Health Assessment identified mental health and suicide prevention as top priorities for our community, highlighting the need for upstream prevention and coordinated response; and

WHEREAS, the Henderson County Public Schools and Henderson County Department of Public Health are partnering to implement *Sources of Strength*, a peer-led youth leadership program designed to promote connection, resilience, and help-seeking behavior in our youth; and

WHEREAS, the Henderson County Behavioral Health Coalition works to identify needs and gaps, strengthen collaboration, and improve systems of care within our community; and

WHEREAS, new suicide prevention strategies, including *Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR)* training, *Counseling on Access to Lethal Means (CALM)* training, and the community-wide *Safe September* initiative that includes the distribution of gun locks and Narcan, are being implemented to reduce access to lethal means and prevent deaths by suicide;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Henderson County Board of Commissioners do hereby proclaim **September 2025 as Suicide Prevention Awareness Month** in Henderson County and encourage all residents to learn the signs, start the conversation, and take action to prevent suicide and support those impacted by suicide loss.

Adopted this 2nd day of September 2025.

WILLIAM LAPSLEY, CHAIRMAN
HENDERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

ATTEST:

DENISA LAUFFER, CLERK TO THE BOARD