PROCLAMATION OF THE EL PASO COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH RECOGNIZING NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION AWARENESS MONTH 2022

WHEREAS, there were 1,370 deaths by suicide in Colorado during 2021; and

WHEREAS, 186 El Paso County residents died by suicide and thousands of their friends and family were forever changed by these losses last year; and

WHEREAS, in El Paso County in 2021, suicide was the ninth leading cause of death for people of all ages and men accounted for a disproportionate 78 percent of those deaths; and

WHEREAS, in 2021 the U.S. Surgeon General issued an advisory on youth mental health and Children’s Hospital Colorado issued a state of emergency in youth mental health; and

WHEREAS, although El Paso County saw a decrease in youth suicides in 2021, one year of data is not enough to establish a trend; therefore, it remains vitally important to continue suicide prevention efforts with partners throughout the county; and

WHEREAS, youth mental health and suicide prevention has long been a top priority of El Paso County Public Health (EPCPH), who convenes the Youth Suicide Prevention Workgroup, a collaborative of community partners taking collective action in support of youth mental health and suicide prevention; and

WHEREAS, the local community and the Youth Suicide Prevention Workgroup are also deeply invested in layered suicide prevention efforts, including the Suicide Prevention Collaborative of El Paso County, an alliance of organizations and community leaders with a collective goal to reduce suicide deaths in El Paso County by 20 percent by the year 2024 among all age groups; and

WHEREAS, September is National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month, a time when mental health advocates, prevention organizations, survivors, allies, and community members unite to promote suicide prevention awareness; and

WHEREAS, EPCPH recognizes that together, we are changing the conversation about suicide by replacing myths and stigma with information and action steps everyone can take. EPCPH urges all El Paso County residents to take action and prevent suicide in our communities by learning about the risk factors and warning signs, asking about suicide directly, being there for those who are suffering, keeping them safe, helping them connect to resources, and following up after a crisis.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE EL PASO COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH:
1. The month of September 2022 is proclaimed as “El Paso County Suicide Prevention Awareness Month” in El Paso County, Colorado.

2. El Paso County Board of Health recognizes that no single suicide prevention effort will be sufficient. Through the combined action of El Paso County residents and community suicide prevention initiatives, we can all work together to increase awareness, take action and prevent suicide.

MOVED, SECONDED AND ADOPTED BY THE EL PASO COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH AT ITS MEETING HELD ON AUGUST 24, 2022, IN COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO.

EL PASO COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

BY: [Signature]  M.D.
President

ATTEST BY: [Signature]
Secretary