EFFECTIVE DATE: August 23, 2023

Proclamation Of The El Paso County Board Of Health Recognizing National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month 2023

WHEREAS, there were 1,287 deaths by suicide in Colorado during 2022; and

WHEREAS, 189 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 2022, suicide was the eighth leading cause of death for people of all ages, suicide deaths were three times higher among males compared to females, and four suicide deaths occurred in adolescents 11 to 17 years of age; and

WHEREAS, although El Paso County has seen a decrease in youth suicides the past two years, it remains vitally important to continue suicide prevention efforts with partners throughout the county to empower and support youth mental health; 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 suicide is a complex community challenge, and each life lost impacts many families, community members, and those who diligently work in suicide prevention. 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 reaching out to someone who has had a relationship end, has had financial challenges, or is navigating grief and loss; learning about the risk factors and warning signs; asking about suicide directly; and staying connected to those you care about.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE EL PASO COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH:

1. The month of September 2023 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 23, 2023, IN COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO.

EL PASO COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

BY: [Signature] President

ATTEST BY: [Signature] Susan Wheelan, Secretary

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