Proclamation Of The El Paso County Board of Health Recognizing October 2023 As National Substance Abuse Prevention Month

WHEREAS, the mission of El Paso County Public Health is to promote and protect public health and environmental quality across El Paso County through people, prevention and partnerships; and

WHEREAS, the vision of El Paso County Public Health is for all El Paso County residents to live in thriving communities where every person has the opportunity to achieve optimal health; and

WHEREAS, National Substance Abuse Prevention Month, observed each October since 2011, highlights the vital role of substance abuse prevention in both individual and community health; and

WHEREAS, substance abuse affects millions of Americans and includes underage drinking, alcohol dependency, tobacco and nicotine use, non-medical use of prescription drugs such as Fentanyl, abuse of over-the-counter medications, and abuse of psychedelic substances such as psilocybin mushrooms; and

WHEREAS, evidence shows that adolescents who use marijuana can become addicted, and that marijuana use in adolescents and young adults is associated with future high-risk use of tobacco, alcohol, and other drugs; and

WHEREAS, in 2021, 19 percent of high school students in Colorado felt it was easy or very easy to get prescription drugs without a prescription; and

WHEREAS, in 2022, the total number of drug overdose deaths in El Paso County was 210, of which 96 overdose deaths involved fentanyl; and

WHEREAS, through implementation of Drug Enforcement Administration Drug Take Back Days and distribution of medication lockboxes, El Paso County Public Health has collected 430 pounds of unused or expired prescription medications and distributed 300 medication lockboxes to prevent unintentional poisonings and accidental overdoses in the community; and

WHEREAS, El Paso County Public Health provides valuable and accurate information and resources on its website to El Paso County regarding substance abuse prevention, focusing on youth substance abuse and opioid abuse; and

WHEREAS, the Board encourages individuals and families to educate themselves about the risks of substance abuse and to avail themselves of the community resources available for substance abuse information, prevention, and treatment.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the El Paso County Board of Health that the month of October 2023 is proclaimed as “National Substance Abuse Prevention Month” in El Paso County, Colorado.

MOVED, SECONDED AND ADOPTED BY THE EL PASO COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH AT ITS MEETING HELD ON SEPTEMBER 27, 2023, IN COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO.

EL PASO COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

BY: _______________________________ ATTEST BY: _______________________________

Ted Cong, President

El Paso County Public Health

Susan Wheelan, Secretary

El Paso County, CO

Public Health

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