

VB 2021-07

EFFECTIVE DATE: August 25, 2021

**PROCLAMATION OF THE EL PASO COUNTY BOARD OF  
HEALTH RECOGNIZING NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION  
AWARENESS MONTH 2021**

**WHEREAS**, there were 1,294 deaths by suicide in Colorado during 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, 183 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 2020, suicide was the ninth leading cause of death for people of all ages and men accounted for a disproportionate 79 percent of those deaths; and

**WHEREAS**, suicide is the leading cause of death among Colorado youth ages 10 to 17; and

**WHEREAS**, El Paso County Public Health 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 comprehensive 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, and suicide prevention is everyone's business; and


**WHEREAS**, El Paso County Public Health urges all El Paso County residents to #BeThe1To take action and prevent suicide in our communities by 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 2021 is proclaimed as "*El Paso County Suicide Prevention Awareness Month*" in El Paso County, Colorado.
2. El Paso County Board of Health recognizes that 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 25, 2021, IN COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO.

**EL PASO COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH**

BY:   
President

ATTEST BY:   
Secretary