



**Health & Human Services
Agency
COUNTY OF TULARE
AGENDA ITEM**

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

ALLEN ISHIDA
District One
PETE VANDER POEL
District Two
PHILLIP A. COX
District Three
J. STEVEN WORTHLEY
District Four
MIKE ENNIS
District Five

AGENDA DATE: September 1, 2009

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|--|-----|-------------------------------------|----|-------------------------------------|-----|-------------------------------------|
| Public Hearing Required | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> | No | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Scheduled Public Hearing w/Clerk | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> | No | <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Published Notice Required | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> | No | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Advertised Published Notice | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> | No | <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Meet & Confer Required | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> | No | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Electronic file(s) has been sent | Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No | <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Budget Transfer (Aud 308) attached | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> | No | <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Personnel Resolution attached | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> | No | <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Resolution, Ordinance or Agreements are attached and signature line for Chairman is marked with tab(s)/flag(s) | | | | | | |
| | Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No | <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| CONTACT PERSON: Noah J. Whitaker PHONE: 737-4660 | | | | | | |

SUBJECT: Proclamation of 2009 "Suicide Prevention Week" in Tulare County.

REQUEST(S):
That the Board of Supervisors:
Adopt Resolution proclaiming September 6th through 12th as "Suicide Prevention Week" in Tulare County.

SUMMARY:
This Proclamation recognizes suicide as a Tulare County public health problem, identifies suicide prevention as a responsibility of Tulare County, and designates September 6th through 12th as "Suicide Prevention Week" in Tulare County. This week runs concurrently with the 2009 National Suicide Prevention Week, as well as with World Suicide Prevention Day that is recognized internationally and supported by the World Health Organization. Suicide prevention awareness activities will be carried out by the Tulare County Suicide Prevention Task Force (SPTF)

The SPTF convened in December of 2007 to bring all interested parties from across the county together to address suicide in Tulare County as a preventable public health problem, and serves as an advisory committee for the Health Services Branch of the Health and Human Services Agency. This group is dedicated to reducing the frequency of suicide completions and attempts through collaborative efforts by engaging a wide range of government agencies, community-based organizations, and the community. Suicide prevention efforts were priority identified by the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA), and are funded by the Prevention and

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Early Intervention (PEI) component plan as developed by the Mental Health Services Branch of the Health and Human Services Agency.

The Goals Outlined by Tulare County SPTF includes the following:

- To promote public awareness that suicide is a public health problem that is preventable.
- To improve and expand surveillance systems.
- To promote effective clinical and professional practices.
- To develop and implement suicide prevention programs.

The Tulare County Suicide Prevention Task Force has achieved several objectives in an effort to achieve each identified goal. For example, they have continued to promote public awareness by developing and distributing resource cards, disseminating information, and attending community events and health fairs. The members support ongoing efforts to implement improved and expanded surveillance systems for suicide behavior by developing a standardized form for suicide and attempted suicide reporting. The Task Force has promoted effective clinical and professional practices by hosting a special training presented by Dr. Morton Silverman, a nationally renowned scholar on the subject of suicide. The Task Force has also promoted resource awareness with bi-monthly presentations relating to current suicide prevention efforts within our county. Additionally, within the next year the SPTF plans to launch an educational campaign including internet resources like MySpace, Facebook, and Twitter. The Task Force has developed and implemented suicide prevention programs by maintaining a suicide survivors' support group, and developing a screening pilot project for implementation in our public health clinics.

The SPTF has two planned major events during National Suicide Prevention Week. The first activity is an Awareness Walk & Candlelight Vigil to bring together community members who have lost someone to suicide and to raise awareness that suicide is a public health problem that is preventable. The second activity is a screening of the "Shaken Tree" documentary at the historic Fox Theater. This documentary will be shown free of charge to the community, and highlights issues families commonly face when a loved one is struggling with a mental illness or emotional disturbance.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING:

No net county cost. All activities of the SPTF are funded through Tulare County's Prevention and Early Intervention component plan of the Mental Health Services Act and co-sponsored by the Tulare County Mental Health Board.

LINKAGE TO THE COUNTY OF TULARE STRATEGIC BUSINESS PLAN:

The County's five-year strategic plan includes the Quality of Life Initiative that encourages innovative provision of quality supportive services for at-risk adults, youth and children in state and federally mandated programs. By Proclaiming Suicide Prevention week Tulare County is promoting a collaborate effort through

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awareness, promotion and education, to reduce the incidence of suicides and prevent individuals from becoming suicidal. This proclamation increases the ability to fulfill the County's five-year strategic plan through community education and awareness.

ALTERNATIVES:

Not to proclaim "Suicide Prevention Week" in Tulare County. However, this is not recommended.

INVOLVEMENT OF OTHER DEPARTMENTS OR AGENCIES:

The Tulare County Suicide Prevention Task Force brings together a wide variety of agencies, community-based organizations, and concerned community members. This group is open to, and encourages, public participation. Agencies and organizations currently participating in the Task Force include but are not limited to the Health and Human Services Agency Health, Mental Health, and Human Services branches, Law Enforcement, Tulare County Coroner's Office, Tulare County Office of Education, Kaweah Delta District Hospital, Kaweah Delta Mental Health, the Veteran's Administration, Family Health Care Network, HeartWorks, Synchrony of Visalia, Fresno County Survivor's of Suicide, and various concerned community members.

ADMINISTRATIVE SIGN-OFF:



Ray Bullick
Director Health

Cc: Auditor/Controller
County Counsel
County Administrative Office (3)

Presentation

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF TULARE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

IN THE MATTER OF:)
Proclamation of 2009 "Suicide) RESOLUTION NO. _____
Prevention Week" in Tulare County.) AGREEMENT NO. _____

UPON MOTION OF SUPERVISOR _____, SECONDED BY
SUPERVISOR _____, THE FOLLOWING WAS ADOPTED BY THE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, AT AN OFFICIAL MEETING HELD _____
_____, BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES:
NOES:
ABSTAIN:
ABSENT:

ATTEST: JEAN M. ROUSSEAU
COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER/
CLERK, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

BY: _____
Deputy Clerk

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Adopted Resolution proclaiming September 6th through 12th as "Suicide Prevention Week" in Tulare County.