

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS  
BOARD ACTION SUMMARY

DEPT: Behavioral Health And Recovery Services BOARD AGENDA #: \*A-4

AGENDA DATE: March 15, 2016

**SUBJECT:**

Approval to Proclaim March 2016 as Prescription Drug Abuse Awareness Month in Stanislaus County

**BOARD ACTION AS FOLLOWS:**

No. 2016-128

On motion of Supervisor Withrow, Seconded by Supervisor O'Brien  
and approved by the following vote,

Ayes: Supervisors: O'Brien, Chiesa, Withrow, DeMartini, and Chairman Monteith

Noes: Supervisors: None

Excused or Absent: Supervisors: None

Abstaining: Supervisor: None

1)  Approved as recommended


2)  Denied

3)  Approved as amended

4)  Other:

MOTION:

ATTEST:

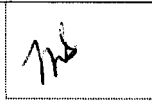
  
ELIZABETH A. KING, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

File No.

**THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS  
AGENDA ITEM**

DEPT: Behavioral Health And Recovery Services BOARD AGENDA #: \*A-4

Urgent  Routine



AGENDA DATE: March 15, 2016

CEO CONCURRENCE: \_\_\_\_\_ 4/5 Vote Required: Yes  No

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**SUBJECT:**

Approval to Proclaim March 2016 as Prescription Drug Abuse Awareness Month in Stanislaus County

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**STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. Approve the proclamation to make March 2016 Prescription Drug Abuse Awareness Month in Stanislaus County

**DISCUSSION:**

Prescription drug abuse is the use of a medication without a prescription, in a way other than prescribed, or for the experience or feeling it causes. Results from the 2014 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) indicate that about 15 million people aged 12 or older used prescription drugs non-medically in the past year, and 6.5 million did so in the past month. This issue is a growing national problem in the United States. Prescription drugs are misused and abused almost as often as marijuana and alcohol. This growth is fueled by misperceptions about prescription drug safety and increasing availability. A 2011 analysis by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found that opioid analgesic (pain reliever) sales increased nearly four-fold between 1999 and 2010. This was paralleled by an almost four-fold increase in opioid (narcotic pain medication) overdose deaths and substance abuse treatment admissions that were almost six times the rate during the same time period.

Prescription drug abuse-related emergency department visits and treatment admissions have risen significantly in recent years. Other negative outcomes that may result from prescription drug misuse and abuse include falls and fractures in older adults and, for some, initiating injection drug use with resulting risk for infections such as hepatitis C and HIV. According to results from the 2014 NSDUH report, 12.7% of new illicit drug users began with prescription pain relievers.

Given the magnitude of individual, family, community, governmental and societal costs of substance abuse, the most poignant aspect of its devastating effects is that they are 100% preventable. However, the preventability does not make the issue simple to address. Effective prevention requires the collaboration of multiple service systems in a community. Educating individuals and families about effective ways to store and dispose of medications safely, including "Take Back" programs and events that allow people to turn in unused medications for safe disposal, help reduce the potential for family and friends to have access to and misuse medications prescribed to someone else. Prevention is the best strategy.

Approval to Proclaim March 2016 as Prescription Drug Abuse Awareness Month in Stanislaus County

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**POLICY ISSUE:**

Prescription Drug Abuse Awareness Month was established through legislation sponsored by California State Senator Mark DeSaulnier and the bill signed by Governor Brown in 2013. The designation of March as Prescription Drug Abuse Awareness Month gives all of us the opportunity to raise awareness about America's prescription drug/heroin abuse epidemic through community awareness events and other actions. In addition, it encourages all citizens to actively participate in prevention programs and activities, and to safely store and dispose of their medications on a continual basis.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

The Adopted Final Budget for Behavioral Health and Recovery Services includes \$9.3 million for substance use programs. There is no fiscal impact associated with the requested resolution.

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' PRIORITY:**

Approval of this agenda item supports the Board of Supervisors' priorities of A Healthy Community, A Safe Community, and Effective Partnerships by promoting community awareness of efforts designed to prevent the destructive effects of substance abuse.

**STAFFING IMPACT:**

Existing Behavioral Health and Recovery Services staff will plan and coordinate activities during Prescription Drug Abuse Awareness Month.

**CONTACT PERSON:**

Madelyn Schlaepfer, Behavioral Health Director, 209-525-6205

**ATTACHMENT(S):**

1. Resolution for March 2016 Prescription Drug Abuse Awareness Month

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Date: March 15, 2016

2016-128

On motion of Supervisor Withrow Seconded by Supervisor O'Brien  
and approved by the following vote,

Ayes: Supervisors: O'Brien, Chiesa, Withrow, DeMartini and Chairman Monteith

Noes: Supervisors: None

Excused or Absent: Supervisors: None

Abstaining: Supervisor: None

Item # \*A-4

THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED:

**2016 PRESCRIPTION DRUG ABUSE AWARENESS MONTH**

WHEREAS, In 2014, 47,055 drug overdose deaths occurred, more than during any previous year on record; and

WHEREAS, In 2014, opioids, including prescription painkillers and heroin, were involved in 28,647 deaths, or 61% of all drug overdose deaths; and

WHEREAS, Overdose deaths involving opioid pain relievers now exceed more deaths than heroin and cocaine combined; and

WHEREAS, In 2014, there were approximately one and a half times more drug overdose deaths in the United States than deaths from motor vehicle crashes among people 25-64 years of age; and

WHEREAS, Drug misuse and abuse caused about 2.5 million emergency department visits in 2011 and more than 1.24 million of these were related to prescription drugs; and

WHEREAS, In 2014, about 15 million people aged 12 or older used prescription drugs non-medically in the past year, and 6.5 million did so in the past month; and

WHEREAS, Nonmedical use of prescription painkillers costs health insurers up to \$72.5 billion annually in direct health-care costs; and

WHEREAS, A new California statute makes naloxone, a lifesaving overdose rescue medication, available from pharmacists without a prescription for community members to have on hand to emergently reverse opioid overdoses in people at risk; and

WHEREAS, Medication Assisted Treatment with buprenorphine, methadone and naltrexone is available to assist people in recovering from their opioid substance use disorder; and

WHEREAS, While health care systems and practitioners are adopting guidelines for more cautious prescribing and handling of prescription pain medication, more effort is yet needed to address the epidemic of opioid abuse, heroin addiction and drug overdose in our communities; and

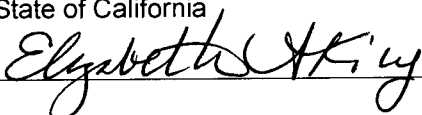
WHEREAS, Since September 2009, a total of 11,021 pounds of expired and unwanted medication has been removed from circulation and possible diversion through Stanislaus County's Drop the Drugs Program. Nationally since September 2010 the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) during its National Prescription Drug Take Back Days in cooperation with its state, local, tribal law-enforcement and community partners has collected cumulatively, 5,525,021 pounds of drugs. The Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors supports April 30, 2016 as the next "National Prescription Drug Take Back Day" as declared by the DEA and encourages residents to locate their local collection site and safely dispose of their unwanted, unused prescription drugs on that day; and

WHEREAS, Stanislaus County Behavioral Health and Recovery Services in partnership with Stanislaus Drug Enforcement Agency is working to reduce prescription drug abuse and misuse. The partnership engages local citizens, law enforcement, education representatives, civic and county leaders, county agencies and community based organizations to raise awareness about potential prescription drug abuse/misuse dangers and to promote safe medication storage and disposal; and

WHEREAS, Families, schools, businesses, faith-based communities, law enforcement, medical professionals, county and local civic leaders and governments, health care practitioners, pharmacists and the general public will demonstrate their commitment to the prevention of prescription drug abuse and misuse by participating in activities intended to highlight and support local prevention efforts during the month of March; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors does hereby declare March, 2016 as PRESCRIPTION DRUG ABUSE AWARENESS MONTH and that all community members are encouraged to "Drop the Drugs".

ATTEST: ELIZABETH A. KING, Clerk  
Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors,  
State of California



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File No.