

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

DEPT: Behavioral Health & Recovery Services

BOARD AGENDA: 8.1  
AGENDA DATE: August 31, 2021

**SUBJECT:**

Approval to Proclaim August 31, 2021 as Overdose Awareness Day in Stanislaus County

**BOARD ACTION AS FOLLOWS:**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2021-0416**

On motion of Supervisor Withrow Seconded by Supervisor Grewal  
and approved by the following vote,  
Ayes: Supervisors: B. Condit, Withrow, Grewal, C. Condit, and Chairman Chiesa  
Noes: Supervisors: None  
Excused or Absent: Supervisors: None  
Abstaining: Supervisor: None

- 1) X Approved as recommended
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_ Denied
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_ Approved as amended
- 4) \_\_\_\_\_ Other:

**MOTION:**

ATTEST: Kelly Rodriguez  
KELLY RODRIGUEZ, Assistant Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

File No.

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

DEPT: Behavioral Health & Recovery Services

BOARD AGENDA:8.1  
AGENDA DATE: August 31, 2021

CONSENT ☐

CEO CONCURRENCE: YES

4/5 Vote Required: No

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**SUBJECT:**

Approval to Proclaim August 31, 2021 as Overdose Awareness Day in Stanislaus County

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

1. Proclaim August 31, 2021 as Overdose Awareness Day in Stanislaus County.

**DISCUSSION:**

As the COVID-19 pandemic has claimed more than one-half million American lives, it has also quietly worsened what was already one of our gravest public health crises: drug addiction. Drug overdose deaths have surged during the pandemic.

Nationally, drug overdose deaths rose nearly 30% in 2020 to a record 93,000, according to preliminary statistics by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). It's the largest single-year increase recorded. CDC has attributed the increase in deaths caused by overdose to disruptions to daily life caused by the pandemic. This drove those Americans already in the shadows further into isolation, economic fragility, and fear, while disrupting the treatment and support systems that might have saved them. Increased isolation of drug users meant less contact with friends, family, and others who could try to revive them or seek help if they appeared to be overdosing.

The pandemic has also forced drug users to rely on different sources for their drugs. Drug users might not have been as aware of what they were getting, including the recent street formulations laced with the powerful painkiller fentanyl. Pills not obtained with a prescription or from a pharmacy can kill. Counterfeit pills that contain fentanyl, including counterfeit oxycodone pills, remain a statewide problem and affect Stanislaus County as well. Fentanyl is a highly potent painkiller, 100 times stronger than morphine and 150 times stronger than oxycodone. Fentanyl can be diluted with cutting agents to create the counterfeits, which mimic the effect of oxycodone but are much cheaper to buy on the street than oxycodone alone.

Stanislaus County is not immune to the increase of deaths caused by overdose. Stanislaus County has recorded 132 total deaths by overdose in calendar year 2020; a 59% increase over 2019. Of the 132 deaths, 78 were opioid related. Although white residents continue to experience the highest opioid death rate, the largest increase was seen in the 18-24-year-old Latino/Latina community; increasing 150% from 2019 to 2020.

## **What every Stanislaus County resident can do to save lives:**

### Drug Disposal

Safe and secure drug disposal starts with cleaning out your medicine cabinet. A National Survey on Drug Use and Health asked respondents who misused prescription pain relievers to identify where they obtained the pills that they had most recently misused. The most common source, reported by half of all respondents, was "from a friend or relative for free." Proper disposal of unused or expired prescription medications prevents drug abuse, accidental overdose, and environmental impacts. The next "Drop the Drugs" event in Stanislaus County is on Saturday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> from 10am – 2pm at 800 11th Street in Modesto. It will be a drive-thru event located on the I Street side of the Stanislaus County Courthouse. Residents can bring medications including those for pain, such as opioids and fentanyl, in their original containers which will be incinerated, protecting the identity of the individuals. This is an anonymous and free event. Sharps will also be accepted in a rigid, tightly sealed container.

### Naloxone (Narcan)

Unfortunately, a drug overdose is no longer a rare occurrence. It has become increasingly important that citizens who may witness an opioid overdose – by friend, family, or stranger – be familiar with naloxone. Naloxone (brand name: Narcan) is a non-addictive life-saving medication that can reverse the effects of an opioid overdose when administered in time. Carrying a naloxone rescue kit is essential if you or someone in your life suffers from opioid use disorder. It is also important to consider having a naloxone rescue kit if you or someone you know has been prescribed opioids. Ask your pharmacist how you may obtain naloxone, even without a prescription.

### Education

So many lives have been lost this past year, please take the time to learn about opioid addiction, overdose, and the steps you can take to save a life. Drug addiction is a disease, not a moral failure. Stigma exists around drug addiction, yet anyone can find themselves dependent on drugs.

## **POLICY ISSUE:**

Board of Supervisors' approval is required to proclaim August 31, 2021 as Overdose Awareness Day in Stanislaus County.

## **FISCAL IMPACT:**

There are no fiscal impacts associated with this item.

## **BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' PRIORITY:**

The recommended action is consistent with the Board's priority of *Supporting a Healthy Community* by raising awareness of drug addiction and overdose, to help prevent the loss of lives due to drugs in the community.

## **STAFFING IMPACT:**

There are no staffing impacts associated with this item.

**CONTACT PERSON:**

Ruben Imperial, MBA  
Director, Behavioral Health and Recovery Services

209-525-6205

**ATTACHMENT(S):**

1. Overdose Awareness Proclamation

**PROCLAIMING AUGUST 31, 2021 AS OVERDOSE AWARENESS DAY IN  
STANISLAUS COUNTY**

WHEREAS, the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors has recognized healthy communities as a priority; and,

WHEREAS, the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors does affirm and acknowledge the harm and hardship caused by drug addiction and overdose; and,

WHEREAS, we recognize the purpose of Overdose Awareness Day as remembering loved ones lost to overdose; and,

WHEREAS, people with a substance use disorder recover if provided the necessary treatment services and supports in their communities; and,

WHEREAS, stigma and fear of discrimination keep many who would benefit from substance use disorder treatment services from seeking help; and,

WHEREAS, greater public awareness about substance use disorder and death by overdose can change attitudes and behaviors towards people with this illness; and,

WHEREAS, we acknowledge the grief felt by families and friends remembering those who have died or had a permanent injury as a result of a drug overdose; and,

WHEREAS, we recognize substance use disorder affects thousands of Stanislaus County residents; and,

WHEREAS, we resolve to play our part in reducing the toll of overdoses in our community, which claimed the lives of 132 Stanislaus County residents in 2020, with countless others affected forever; and,

WHEREAS, we recognize the tragedy of death by overdose is preventable; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors does hereby unanimously proclaim August 31, 2021, as Overdose Awareness Day in Stanislaus County.

Approval to Proclaim  
August 31, 2021 as  
Overdose Awareness Day in  
Stanislaus County

Board of Supervisors  
Behavioral Health & Recovery Services  
Tuesday, August 31, 2021

# Melinda Pallotta

Stanislaus County Opioid Safety  
Coalition



# Overdose Awareness Day 2021

- Multi-faceted purpose:
  - Support those grieving
  - Reduce stigma
  - Promote recovery
  - Prevent overdose



# December 9, 1987 - Zachary Ross



# Zack's Teen Years



# Christmas 2012

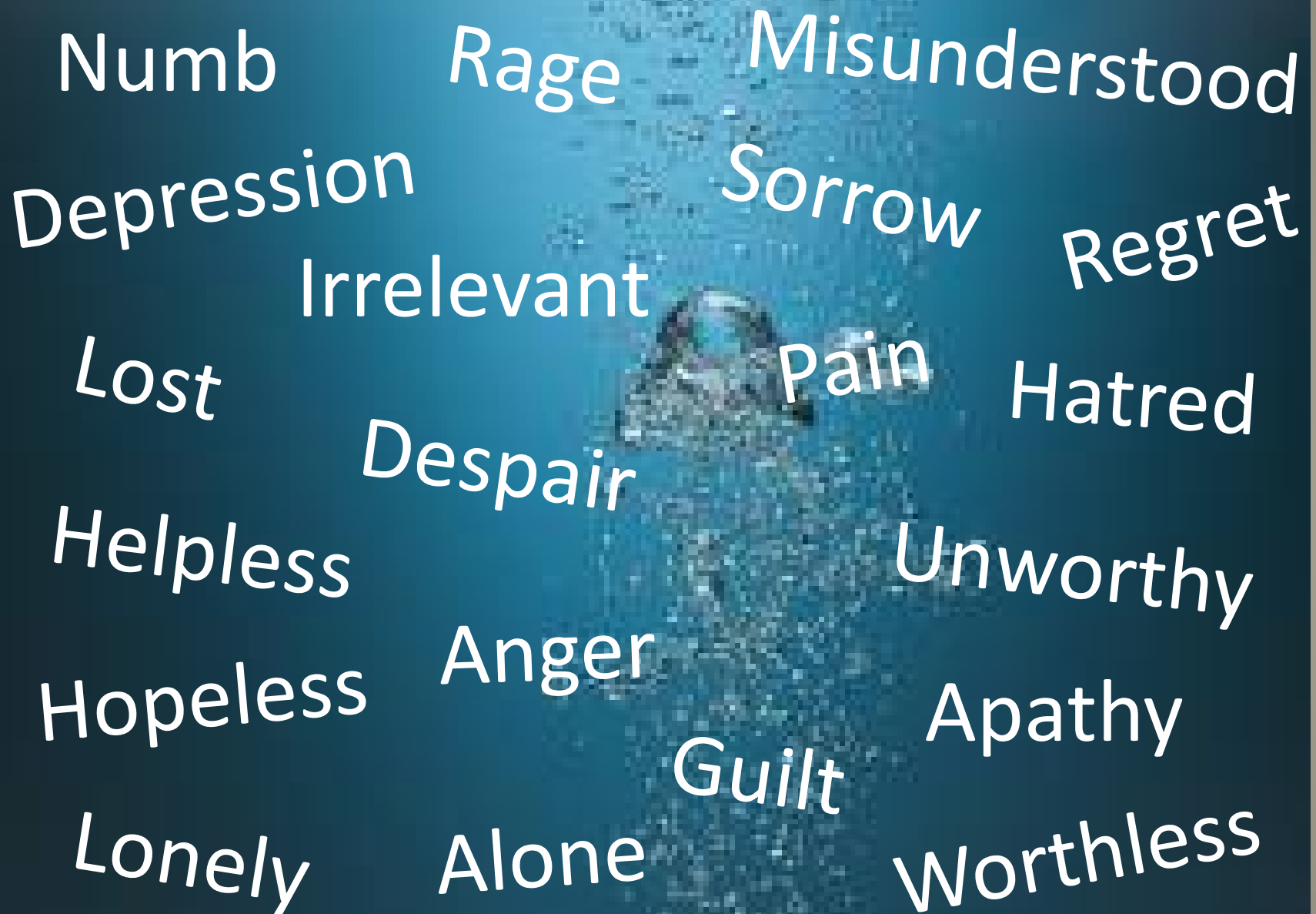


January 2014



# November 16, 2014





Numb Rage Misunderstood  
Depression Sorrow Regret  
Irrelevant  
Lost Pain Hatred  
Despair  
Helpless Unworthy  
Hopeless Anger Apathy  
Lonely Guilt Worthless  
Alone

# Reaching Out



# Light up the Sky for International Overdose Awareness Day

**HAVE YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW  
LOST A LOVED ONE TO AN OVERDOSE?**

Please join us to light a candle in memory of your loved one  
and for an evening of fellowship, prayer and support.

**DATE: TUESDAY, AUGUST 31, 2021**  
**TIME: 7:00 PM TO 8:00 PM**  
**PLACE: SHELTER COVE COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
**4242 COFFEE ROAD, MODESTO, CA**

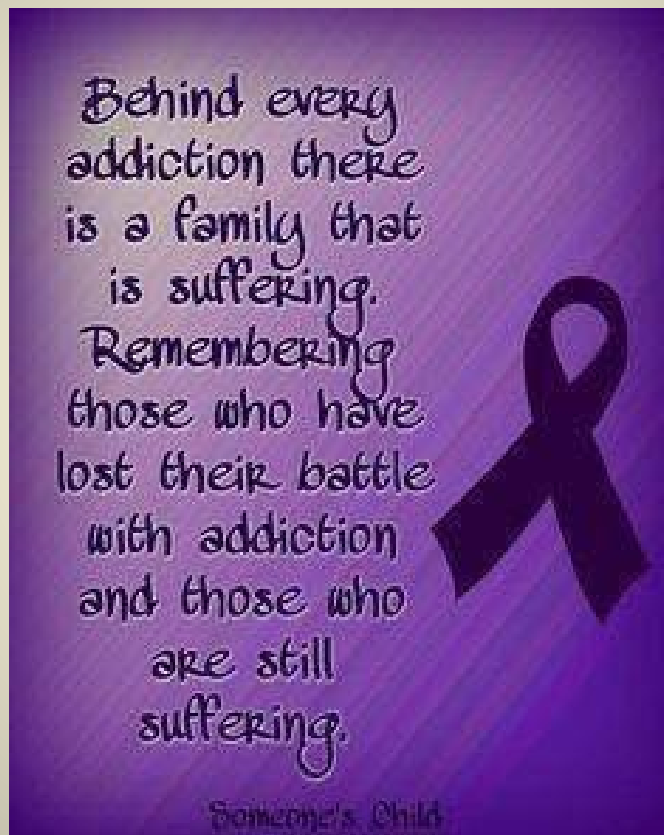


**You are not alone!**  
**God lights up the sky**  
**to show us He is with us!**

# Stanislaus County Opioid Safety Coalition

- Resource for support, treatment and recovery
- Safe prescribing
- Overdose prevention
- Medication disposal
- Website: [www.stancountyrxsafety.org](http://www.stancountyrxsafety.org)
- Email: [stanopioidcoalition@stanbhhs.org](mailto:stanopioidcoalition@stanbhhs.org)
- Phone: (209) 525-5316

# Overdose Awareness Day





In loving memory of  
Zachary Ross  
12/9/1987 – 11/16/2014

# Staff Recommendation

- Proclaim August 31, 2021 as Overdose Awareness Day in Stanislaus County.