

*The Board of Supervisors of
Contra Costa County, California*

In the matter of:

Resolution No. 2016/97

Proclaiming March 2016 as 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, nonmedical use of prescription painkillers cost health insurers up to \$72.5 billion annually in direct health-care cost; and

Whereas, a new California statute makes naloxone, a life saving 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, Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) 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 2010, a total of 5,525,021 pounds of expired and unwanted medication has been removed from circulation and possible diversion by 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. The Contra Costa 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, multiple coalitions are working together throughout Contra Costa County to reduce prescription drug abuse and misuse. The Contra Costa MEDS (Medication Education and Disposal Safety) Coalition 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. The East Bay Opioid Safety Coalition focuses on safe prescribing by hospital EDs, urgent care facilities and county and private practice prescribers; 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.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved that the Board of Supervisors of Contra Costa County does hereby recognize March, 2016 as **Prescription Drug Abuse Awareness Month** in Contra Costa County and that all community members are encouraged to pledge, “Spread the word...One Pill Can Kill”.

CANDACE ANDERSEN

Chair,
District II Supervisor

JOHN GIOIA

District I Supervisor

MARY N. PIEPHO

District III Supervisor

KAREN MITCHOFF

FEDERAL D. GLOVER

District IV Supervisor

District V Supervisor

I hereby certify that this is a true and correct copy of an action taken and entered on the minutes of the Board of Supervisors on the date shown.

ATTESTED: March 8, 2016

David J. Twa,

By: _____, Deputy