

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

In the matter of:

Resolution No. 2017/87

PRESCRIPTION DRUG ABUSE AWARENESS MONTH March 2107

WHEREAS, in 2015, 52,404, drug overdose deaths occurred, more than during any previous year on record in the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, in 2015, opioids, including prescription painkillers and heroin, were involved in 33,091 deaths, or 63% of all drug overdose deaths in the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, in 2015, opioid misuse resulted in 1,000 emergency department (ED) visits each day in the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, in 2014, almost 2 million Americans abused or were dependent on prescription opioids; and

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

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

WHEREAS, access to Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) with buprenorphine, methadone and naltrexone should be expanded to assist people in recovering from their opioid substance use disorder; and

WHEREAS, health care systems and practitioners are adopting guidelines for more cautious prescribing of prescription pain medications, improving prescribing practices for chronic pain, increasing use of CURES, recommending non-opioid pain treatments, intensifying efforts to educate community members, distributing naloxone overdose rescue kits, enhancing access to substance use disorder treatment and implementing harm reduction services to address the epidemic of opioid abuse, addiction and overdose in our communities; and

WHEREAS, the removal of 7.1 million pounds of expired and unwanted medication from circulation and possible diversion has occurred since September 2010 through the Drug Enforcement Administration's take back program, the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors supports April 29, 2017 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 expired and unwanted prescription drugs on that day; and

WHEREAS, multiple coalitions are collaborating throughout Contra Costa County to prevent prescription drug abuse and misuse such as the Contra Costa MEDS (Medication, Education and Disposal Safety) Coalition, that engages local citizens, law enforcement, education representatives, civic and county leaders, county agencies and community based organizations to reduce the perception of harm and to promote safe medication storage and disposal, and the East Bay Safe Prescription Coalition that works to stimulate safer prescribing by hospital emergency departments, 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 community members 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.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors does hereby declare March, 2017 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.

FEDERAL D. GLOVER
Chair, District V Supervisor

JOHN GIOIA
District I Supervisor

CANDACE ANDERSEN
District II Supervisor

DIANE BURGIS

KAREN MITCHOFF

District III Supervisor

District IV 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 14, 2017

David J. Twa,

By: _____, Deputy