

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

In the matter of:
recognizing March as Prescription Drug Abuse Awareness Month.

Resolution No. 2019/55

WHEREAS: Anyone who takes prescription opioids can become addicted to them. In fact, as many as one in four patients receiving long-term opioid therapy in a primary care setting struggles with opioid addiction. Once addicted, it can be hard to stop; and

WHEREAS: Most teenagers who abuse prescription opioid drugs get them for free from a friend or relative – but those at highest risk of overdose are as likely to get them from a doctor’s prescription; and

WHEREAS: In 2017 in Contra Costa County there were 704,647 prescriptions given to patients for opioids, which is an age-adjusted rate of 538.8 prescriptions per 1,000 residents, which is higher than the state rate of 508.65; and

WHEREAS: Among the more than 70,200 drug overdose deaths estimated nationally in 2017, the sharpest increase was related to fentanyl and fentanyl analogs (other synthetic narcotics) with over 28,400 overdose deaths; and

WHEREAS: In 2017, 47,600 Americans died from opioid overdoses, more than 130 people every day and 52 of those overdose deaths occurred in Contra Costa County; and

WHEREAS: From July 2016 through September 2017, a total of 142,557 emergency department visits (15.7 per 10,000 visits) from 52 jurisdictions in 45 states were suspected opioid-involved overdoses; and

WHEREAS: It is estimated that the “economic burden” of prescription opioid misuse alone in the United States is \$78.5 billion a year, including the costs of healthcare, lost productivity, addiction treatment, and criminal justice involvement; and

WHEREAS: Americans that have participated in DEA’s Sixteen National Prescription Drug Take-Back Days have turned in more than 5,439.5 tons of medication since the Fall of 2010 at take-back sites available in all 50 states and U.S. territories, and in Contra Costa County, during the October 2018 DEA sponsored Take-Back Day, 1,855.3 pounds of unwanted or unused prescription medication were removed; and

WHEREAS, the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors supports April 27, 2019 as “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 accumulated unwanted, unused prescription drugs; and

WHEREAS, the Contra Costa County Medication Education and Disposal Safety (MEDS) Coalition engages youth and adult stakeholders from across the county to participate in Prescription Drug Abuse Awareness Month activities to raise awareness

about prescription drug dangers, promote safe medication storage and disposal and ensure naloxone is available for those at high risk of overdose; and

the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors does hereby declare March, 2019 as Prescription Drug Abuse Awareness Month, and encourages all citizens to participate in prescription drug related prevention programs and activities; Be it also resolved that the County Board of Supervisors encourages all community members to pledge, “Spread the Word... One Pill Can Kill”.

JOHN GIOIA

Chair, District I Supervisor

CANDACE ANDERSEN

District II Supervisor

DIANE BURGIS

District III Supervisor

KAREN MITCHOFF

District IV Supervisor

FEDERAL D. GLOVER

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 19, 2019

David J. Twa,

By: _____, Deputy