

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

PR.2, C.19

**In the matter of recognizing March, 2017 as "Prescription  
Drug Abuse Awareness Month"**

**Resolution No. 2017/87**

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.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of Contra Costa County does hereby congratulate Jan Watson upon the occasion of her retirement and thanks her for 27 years of outstanding and dedicated service to the people of Contra Costa County, California.

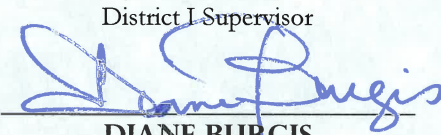
*PASSED by a unanimous vote of the Board of Supervisors members present this 21<sup>st</sup> day of March, 2017.*

  
**FEDERAL D. GLOVER**

Chair,  
District V Supervisor

ABSENT

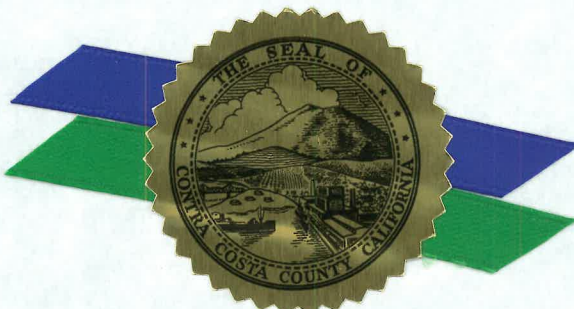
**JOHN GIOIA**  
District I Supervisor

  
**DIANE BURGIS**  
District III Supervisor

  
**CANDACE ANDERSEN**  
District II Supervisor

ABSENT

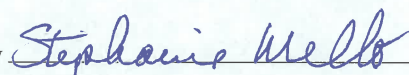
**KAREN MITCHOFF**  
District IV Supervisor



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 21, 2017

DAVID TWA, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors and County Administrator

By  Deputy