

# The Board of Supervisors of Contra Costa County, California

In the matter of recognizing March as "Prescription Drug Abuse Awareness Month" in Contra Costa County

Resolution No. 2020/52

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 opioids 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, Young adults aged 18 to 25 have the highest annual and monthly rates of nonmedical use of prescription medications of any age group in the US, with notable consequences from using opioid, stimulant, tranquilizer and sedative medication; and

WHEREAS, in 2018 in Contra Costa County there were 641,374 prescriptions given to patients for opioids which is an age-adjusted rate of 481.5 prescriptions per 1,000 residents which is higher than the state rate of 456.9; and

WHEREAS, according to provisional Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) data, among the more than 68,557 drug overdose deaths nationally in 2018, 47,590 deaths involved an opioid 6 and 82 opioid related overdose deaths occurred in Contra Costa County; and

WHEREAS, in 2018, a total of 8,832 emergency department visits occurred in California that were related to any opioid overdose and 209 of those visits occurred in Contra Costa County; 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





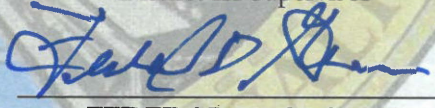
WHEREAS, Americans that have participated in DEA's eighteen National Prescription Drug Take-Back Days have turned in more than 6,349.7 tons of medication since the Fall of 2010 at take-back sites available in all 50 states and U.S. territories, and in Contra Costa County, during the October 2019 DEA sponsored Take-Back Day, 1,514.7 pounds of unwanted or unused prescription medication were removed; and

WHEREAS, the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors supports April 25, 2020 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.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of Contra Costa County does hereby declare March, 2020 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".

*PASSED by a unanimous vote of the Board of Supervisors members present this 10<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2020.*

	
<b>CANDACE ANDERSEN</b> Chair, District II Supervisor	
	
<b>JOHN GIOIA</b> District I Supervisor	<b>DIANE BURGIS</b> District III Supervisor
	
<b>KAREN MITCHOFF</b> District IV Supervisor	<b>FEDERAL D. GLOVER</b> 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 10, 2020

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

By Stephanie Mello, Deputy