

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
FOR THE STATE OF OREGON, FOR THE COUNTY OF BENTON**



**In the Matter of Proclaiming September 2024)
as National Suicide Prevention Month in) PROCLAMATION P2024 – 017
Benton County)**

The month of September 2024 is National Suicide Prevention Month, when millions of people around the world join their voices to share a message of hope and healing; and

Suicide is a devastating tragedy that leaves loved ones with unanswered questions, wishing for more time together. While anyone can be impacted by suicide, we recognize that some populations experience more negative social conditions and higher rates of suicide or suicide attempts. This includes veterans, people who live in rural areas, sexual and gender minorities, middle-aged adults, people of color, and tribal populations; and

With a national theme "*Changing the Narrative on Suicide*," Benton County's observance draws attention to this important public health issue and to disseminate the message that suicide is preventable. Benton County urges all residents to play a role in suicide prevention, promoting mental wellness, and raising awareness about the importance of changing the narrative surrounding suicide and transforming how we perceive this complex issue.

Suicide and suicide behaviors can be influenced by negative conditions in which people live, learn, work, and play. The benefits of preventing and overcoming mental health challenges, suicide attempts, and loss are significant and valuable to individuals, families, and our community at large. We must encourage relatives, friends, neighbors, co-workers, and providers to recognize the signs of a problem, and guide those in need to appropriate services and supports; and

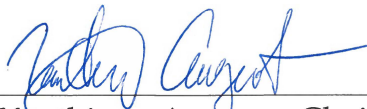
Every day in Benton County, people engage in behavioral health services and community supports. Suicide Prevention Month provides the opportunity for millions of community members in our nation to raise awareness, build resiliency, and find hope.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Benton County Commissioners proclaim the month of September 2024 is Suicide Prevention Month.

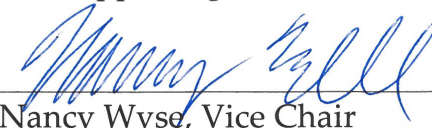
Adopted this 3rd day of September, 2024.

Signed this 3rd day of September, 2024.

BENTON COUNTY BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS



Xanthippe Augerot, Chair



Nancy Wyse, Vice Chair



Pat Malone, Commissioner