

PROCLAMATION

Suicide Prevention Awareness Month in the County of Gunnison, Colorado September 2025

WHEREAS, September 2025 has been designated "Suicide Prevention Awareness Month" by the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI); and

WHEREAS, September 10, 2025 has been designated "World Suicide Prevention Day", which is recognized internationally and supported by the World Health Organization; and

WHEREAS, suicide is a national and statewide public health problem, and suicide prevention is a national and statewide responsibility; and

WHEREAS, the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) reports that:

- Suicide is the 11th leading cause of death in the United States, the 2nd leading cause of death among children and teens ages 10-14 and among people aged 15-24; and
- Over 90% of the people who die by suicide have experienced symptoms of a diagnosable and treatable mental health condition, although often that condition was not recognized or treated.

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that suicide rates increased 37% between 2000-2018, decreased 5% between 2018 and 2020, and returned to their peak rate in 2022; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports the following additional statistics for the year 2023:

- 49,000 people died (one death every 11 minutes) in the United States by suicide; and
- An estimated 1.5 million adults attempted suicide; and
- Suicide was the 7th leading cause of death in Colorado; and
- Colorado had the 12th highest suicide rating in the United States, equivalent to 1,297 suicide deaths in the state.

WHEREAS, organizations such as the Community Health Coalition of the Gunnison Valley are dedicated to saving lives and bringing hope to those affected by suicide, through research, education, advocacy, and resources for those who have lost someone to suicide or who struggle, and urge that we:

- Recognize suicide as a preventable national and state public health problem and declare suicide prevention to be a priority; and
- Acknowledge that no single suicide prevention program or effort will be appropriate for all populations or communities; and
- Address the disparity in access to mental healthcare for underserved and underrepresented groups, and advocate for ending these disparities; and
- Fund new suicide research to support culturally-informed and evidence-based mental health care and services; and
- Encourage initiatives based on the goals contained in the Colorado-National Collaborative for Suicide Prevention; and
- Promote awareness that there is no single cause for suicide, and that suicide most often occurs when stressors exceed the coping abilities of someone struggling with a mental health condition; and
- Develop and implement strategies to improve and increase access to quality mental health, substance abuse, and suicide prevention services and programs; and
- Continue advocacy to ensure we can reimagine a comprehensive suicide, mental health, and substance use crisis response system that builds on the historic new 988 number for the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners of Gunnison County, Colorado by virtue of the authority vested in us by the State of Colorado do hereby proclaim:

Suicide Prevention Awareness Month in the County of Gunnison, Colorado September 2025

INTRODUCED and approved this 16th day of September, 2025 by the Board of County Commissioners of Gunnison County, Colorado.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
GUNNISON COUNTY, COLORADO


Laura Puckett Daniels, Chairperson


Elizabeth Smith, Commissioner


Jonathan Houck, Commissioner

Attest:


Holly Perry, Deputy
County Clerk

