

## **Suicide Prevention Awareness Month Proclamation**

## In Recognition of the 2025 Suicide Prevention Awareness Month

This Proclamation recognizes suicide as a national and statewide public health problem, and suicide prevention as a national and statewide responsibility, and designates **September 2025** as "**Suicide Prevention Awareness Month**" in Paonia, CO.

- **WHEREAS**, in 2024, our region experienced 41 community member deaths by suicide, predominantly middle to late aged white males (CDPHE);
- WHEREAS, each year, approximately 13 million adults seriously think about suicide, 3.8 million make a plan for suicide, and 1.5 million adults attempt suicide (CDC);
- **WHEREAS**, in 2024, 1,306 Coloradans died by suicide with the majority being in the age range of 35-44 (CDPHE);
- WHEREAS, our local Suicide Prevention, Awareness, and Recovery Coalition (SPARC) and organizations
  such as Tri-County Health Network are dedicated to saving lives and bringing hope to those affected by
  suicide through education, advocacy, and resources for those who have experienced suicidal thoughts or
  lost someone to suicide, and together urge that we:
  - 1. Recognize suicide as a preventable public health problem, that there is no single cause of suicide, that anyone can experience suicidal thoughts, and that recovery from suicidal ideation is possible.
  - 2. 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 while advocating to end these disparities.
  - 3. Develop and implement strategies to improve and increase access to quality mental health, substance abuse, and suicide prevention services and programs as well as support Postvention Plans for a community response to a death by suicide.
  - 4. Support the efforts of SPARC in fostering connection and spreading the message that **We Are The Ones Who Talk About Suicide.**

Therefore, BE IT RESOLVED that, I, Paige Smith, Mayor of Paonia, hereby designate September 2025 as "Suicide Prevention Awareness Month" in

Paonia Colorado.

Paige Smith, Mayor

Samira M. Vetter, Town Clerk

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