

Proclamation

International Overdose Awareness Day

August 31, 2024

Whereas, the Adams County Board of Commissioners wants to support and recognize:

- all people who have lost a loved one to an overdose,
- the individuals in our community who have lived experience with surviving an overdose,
- all our community members who are no longer with us due to overdose, and
- the many individuals in our community who have responded to an overdose, whether they are first responders or everyday community members; and,

Whereas, August 31, 2024 was International Overdose Awareness Day; and,

Whereas, this year marked the 23rd anniversary of International Overdose Awareness Day to remember those who died from overdose, to raise awareness of overdose, to reduce the stigma of overdose-related deaths, and to acknowledge the pain and grief felt by those who have lost a loved one; and,

Whereas, overdose rates continue to increase annually, including in Adams County, which experienced the loss of 155 community members in 2023 due to opioid-related overdose deaths; and,

Whereas, overdose does not discriminate, and any person can die from drug overdose, regardless of age, gender, race/ethnicity, socioeconomic status, patterns of substance use, or any other factor, and all drugs can cause overdoses, including prescribed medications; and,

Whereas, Adams County Health Department's harm reduction program, Project Connects, has significantly increased overdose awareness and decreased the potential of fatal opioid overdoses by providing 5,584 doses of naloxone (the overdose reversal medication, often called by the brand-name Narcan) and having thousands of meaningful interactions with community members to provide overdose recognition, prevention, and response education thus far in 2024; and,

Whereas, Project Connects seeks to promote health while building connections throughout Adams County for all people who live, work, and play here while reducing overdose stigma and its impact on people who use substances and their families through education and awareness; and,

Whereas, overdose deaths are preventable, overdose is reversible, and any person in our community can be an overdose responder by carrying naloxone, which is widely available at both harm reduction programs, like Project Connects, and with no prescription necessary at pharmacies in Adams County.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, that the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Adams, State of Colorado, proclaims August 31, 2024, as

“Overdose Awareness Day.”

*In witness whereof, we have set our hands and caused the seal of the county to be affixed
September 3, 2024.*