

That on the 9th day of September, 2014 the Commissioners Court of Williamson County, Texas met in duly called session at the Williamson County Courthouse, 710 Main Street, Georgetown, Texas, with the following members present:

Dan A. Gattis, County Judge
Lisa L. Birkman, Commissioner Precinct One
Cynthia P. Long, Commissioner Precinct Two
Valerie Covey, Commissioner Precinct Three
Ron Morrison, Commissioner Precinct Four

And at said meeting, among other business, the Court considered the following:

PROCLAMATION

This Commissioners Court Proclamation recognizes suicide as a public health problem, and designates September as “Suicide Prevention Month” in Williamson County to coincide with National Suicide Prevention Week, September 8th through September 14th.

WHEREAS, in the State of Texas, there were 3,032 deaths by suicide in 2012 with two times more suicides than homicides, the highest rates in Texas being among teens and seniors; and

WHEREAS, there were 50 suicides in Williamson County during 2013, down 9 from 2012; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that 4.6 million people in the United States are survivors of suicide (those who have lost a loved one to suicide); and

WHEREAS, the stigma associated with mental illness and suicidality works against suicide prevention by discouraging persons at risk for suicide from seeking life-saving help and further traumatizes survivors of suicides; and

WHEREAS, suicide is preventable and the stigma associated with being a consumer of mental health, substance abuse, and suicide prevention services should be eliminated; and

WHEREAS, statewide suicide prevention efforts have been and should continue to be developed and encouraged; and

WHEREAS, we encourage local strategies to implement training for the recognition of at-risk behavior and for the delivery of effective treatment; and

WHEREAS, organizations such as the American Association of Suicidology and community partners in the Williamson County Mental Health Task Force are dedicated to reducing the frequency of suicide attempts and deaths, and the pain of survivors affected by suicides of loved ones, through education programs, intervention services; and

WHEREAS, Blake Pryor, a 2011 Graduate of Georgetown High School, has been recognized as the first recipient of the Hero for Hope Award, for his actions on July 17th, 2014, in which he saved the life of a woman who was about to commit suicide.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED; that the Williamson County Commissioners Court hereby designates September, 2014 as:

“SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH”

And honors heroes such as Blake Pryor and ask that all citizens of Williamson County help to bring awareness to Suicide Prevention.

PROCLAIMED THIS 9TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2014.

Signed:

Dan A. Gattis, County Judge