



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, National Prevention Week, created by SAMHSA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration), is an annual time to raise awareness of the importance of substance use prevention and implementing positive mental health changes; and

WHEREAS, this year's National Prevention Week theme is "Youth Leading Prevention," recognizing youth prevention leaders across the country and the power that each young person has in influencing positive community change; and

WHEREAS, according to the 2020 Texas School Survey, 42.8% of high school students (grades 9-12) and 21.3% of middle school students (7th and 8th grades) report drinking alcohol in the previous 30 days, and the 2019 Texas College survey found 54.8% of college students acknowledged alcohol use in the previous 30-days; and

WHEREAS, mental health workers around the world have reported increased feelings of stress, fear, anxiety, and isolation in people of all ages, where youth have been especially impacted, during this pandemic leading to increased use of alcohol and other drugs to cope with this uncomfortable reality; and

WHEREAS, preventing substance use before it begins is the most effective way to eliminate the damage caused by drugs and alcohol abuse; and

WHEREAS, prevention includes many steps addressing mental health wellness, but unfortunately, the scarcity of intervention resources continues to be a problem all across our country; and

WHEREAS, drugs and alcohol have a disproportionate effect on young developing brains;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Williamson County Commissioners Court proclaim May 9-15, 2021 as National Prevention Week and encourages all youth and adults to participate in prevention activities and to seek and adopt positive behaviors that promote healthy choices;

AND FURTHER RESOLVE, to urge everyone to fight the stigma and discrimination faced by those loved ones facing the long journey of recovery and seek organizations, like LifeSteps, to assist with not just the first step, but the many steps that come afterward.

Signed on this date: _____

Bill Gravell, County Judge

On behalf of the Williamson County Commissioners Court