

State of Texas
County of Williamson
Know all men by these presents:

That on the 6th day of September, 2016 the Commissioners Court of Williamson County, Texas met in a 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

WHEREAS, the Williamson County Commissioners Court recognizes suicide as a public health problem; and

WHEREAS, a report from the American Association of Suicidology, states that 42,773 people reportedly lost their lives to suicide in the United States in 2014, and in that same year, in Texas, an estimated 3,254 people lost their lives to suicide; and

WHEREAS, that report reflects approximately 1 person every 12.3 minutes in our nation will take their own life; and

WHEREAS, also in that same report, it is estimated that 15.09 million people in the United States today are survivors of suicide; and

WHEREAS, the stigma associated with mental illness and suicidality works against prevention by discouraging persons at risk 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, community partners such as the Williamson County Mental Health Task Force, the Youth Suicide Prevention Sub-Committee, Alan's Hope Project, Bluebonnet Trails Community Services, Pick with Austin, the Williamson County's Mobile Outreach Team & Crisis Intervention Team, Veteran Services, local private facilities, and other organizations as well as passionate individuals are dedicated to reducing the frequency of suicide attempts and deaths and the pain loved ones endure; and

WHEREAS, we strive for healthy and empowered individuals and families in our community through education and awareness of programs that provide services that include prevention, treatment, and support services. We recognize that the ARTS play an important role in our mental health wellbeing. And, we continue to research and evaluate ways to bring awareness and services to the citizens of Williamson County.


NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED; that the Williamson County Commissioners Court hereby designates September 5th – 11th, 2016 as:

"Suicide Prevention and Awareness Week"

and encourages all residents to spread a message of HOPE by helping friends and family members when in need and telling others of services available in the community; and furthermore invites the public to attend a Ceremony of Hope & Mural Unveiling on Thursday, September 8th, 2016 at 4:00 p.m. at 2001 N. Mays Street in Round Rock, Texas.

PROCLAIMED THIS 6TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2016.

Signed:


Dan A. Gattis, County Judge

