

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
)
COUNTY OF PICKENS)

RESOLUTION # 2022-21

A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING SEPTEMBER 2022 AS NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH IN PICKENS COUNTY

WHEREAS, September is nationally recognized as Suicide Prevention Month and is intended to promote awareness of this often-stigmatized subject and educate the public about the suicide prevention resources available to the community; and

WHEREAS, one of Council’s goals is to “deliver prompt and effective emergency services,” and

WHEREAS, every day in South Carolina, two people die by suicide, nine visit the Emergency Department and five are admitted to the hospital for intentional self-harm injuries; and

WHEREAS, Pickens County previously had the highest combined 5-year suicide rate per 100,000 population from 2013 – 2017 and from 2012-2016 according to the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control; and

WHEREAS, Pickens County currently has the second highest combined 5-year suicide rate per 100,000 population from 2014-2018 in the state according to the most recent data from the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control; and

WHEREAS, suicide affects all ages and is the second leading cause of death for people ages 10-34, the fourth leading cause among people ages 34-54, and the fifth leading cause among people ages 45-54; and

WHEREAS, the suicide rate among our military population in South Carolina is higher than the suicide rate among our civilian population in South Carolina according to data from the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs; and

WHEREAS, Pickens County participated in the Service Members, Veterans, and their Families Crisis Intercept Mapping for Suicide Prevention project through SAMSHA in 2021 and continues to actively work to maintain the momentum of that program to raise awareness, improve services, and educate the public on resources available; and

WHEREAS, Pickens County is also a key component of the overall action plan of the South Carolina Governor’s Challenge to Prevent Suicide and continues to work collaboratively with the SC Department of Veterans’ Affairs to further SMVF suicide prevention work statewide; and

WHEREAS, the new National Suicide Prevention Lifeline number, 9-8-8, which launched nationwide in July 2022, has created an easy-to-remember number offering 24/7 access to trained crisis counselors who can help people experiencing mental health-related distress; and

WHEREAS, suicide is preventable and suicide prevention is best achieved by a focus across the individual, relationship, family, community, and societal-levels and across all sectors, private and public; and

WHEREAS, we recognize that there never a single reason someone attempts or dies by suicide, but rather suicide and suicide prevention are extremely complex, requiring a comprehensive approach and engaging everyone in the battle to end suicide; and

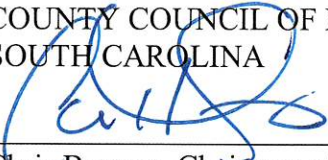
WHEREAS, as South Carolinians we believe our state motto, "Dum Spiro Spero," which is Latin for "While I Breathe, I Hope," and we are compelled to answer the call to continued and further action in the effort to share our hope in the fight against despair felt by those who are at risk of suicide; and

WHEREAS, Pickens County Council wishes to increase awareness of suicide as a preventable public health problem, normalize conversations about mental health and suicide to eliminate stigmas, and show support of and promote the suicide prevention efforts taking place at our local level, throughout our region, and across our state;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Pickens County Council recognizes September 2022 as National Suicide Prevention Month.


Passed and approved, this 8 day of August, 2022.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PICKENS COUNTY,
SOUTH CAROLINA


Chris Bowers, Chairman of County Council
Pickens County, South Carolina

(SEAL)

Attest:


Meagan Nations, Clerk of County Council
Pickens County, South Carolina