

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
)
COUNTY OF PICKENS)

RESOLUTION # 2023-26

A RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING SEPTEMBER 2023 AS NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH IN PICKENS COUNTY

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

WHEREAS, national suicide rates are on the rise, with more people dying from suicide in the United States last year than any other year on record, according to provisional data from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; and

WHEREAS, completed suicide rates increased approximately 36% between 2000–2021, in addition to an estimated 12.3 million adults seriously thought about suicide, 3.5 million made a plan, and 1.7 million attempted suicide; and

WHEREAS, suicide affects people of all ages, ranking among the top 9 leading causes of death for people ages 10-64 in 2021 and was the second leading cause of death for people ages 10-14 and 20-34; and

WHEREAS, crisis care is a common need in our communities, as evidenced by the more than 38,000 calls from people with South Carolina area codes made to the hotline in the year since the 988 lifeline launched; and

WHEREAS, there are still many citizens who are unaware that 988 is the number for the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline, which connects with a trained crisis counselor and is confidential, free, and available 24/7/365; and

WHEREAS, Pickens County government and partnering organizations and non-profits collaborate on a number of public behavioral and mental health initiatives at the local, regional, state, and national levels throughout the year, including the Pickens County Behavioral Health and Suicide Prevention Crisis Mapping teams through SAMHSA and the SCDHEC Behavioral Health and Injury Workgroup; and

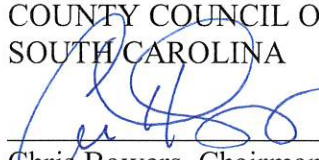
WHEREAS, Pickens County Council wishes to increase awareness of suicide as a preventable public health problem, normalize conversations about mental health and suicide to eliminate stigmas and increase willingness to reach out for help, and show support of and promote the suicide prevention efforts taking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

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Pickens County Council recognizes September 2023 as National Suicide Prevention Month; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Pickens County Council supports the “Every Mind Matters” multi-agency collaboration campaign between Pickens County, SCDMH AOP Mental Health Center, and Behavioral Health Services of Pickens County, whose goal is to help Pickens County citizens talk openly about mental health, recognize signs of mental health challenges, find local resources, and seek support when needed in order to inspire physical and mental wellness, reduce stigma, and prevent suicide in Pickens County.

Passed and approved, this 5 day of September, 2023.


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