

**THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS  
BOARD ACTION SUMMARY**

DEPT: Behavioral Health & Recovery Services

BOARD AGENDA: 6.B.7  
AGENDA DATE: July 18, 2023

**SUBJECT:**

Approval to Proclaim August 31, 2023 as Overdose Awareness Day in Stanislaus County

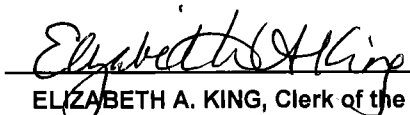
**BOARD ACTION AS FOLLOWS:**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2023-0380**

On motion of Supervisor Grewal Seconded by Supervisor Withrow  
and approved by the following vote,  
Ayes: Supervisors: B. Condit, Chiesa, Withrow, Grewal, and Chairman C. Condit  
Noes: Supervisors: None  
Excused or Absent: Supervisors: None  
Abstaining: Supervisor: None

- 1)  Approved as recommended
- 2)  Denied
- 3)  Approved as amended
- 4)  Other:

**MOTION:**

ATTEST:  \_\_\_\_\_  
ELIZABETH A. KING, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

File No.

**THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS  
AGENDA ITEM**

DEPT: Behavioral Health & Recovery Services

BOARD AGENDA:6.B.7  
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CONSENT:

CEO CONCURRENCE: YES

4/5 Vote Required: No

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**SUBJECT:**

Approval to Proclaim August 31, 2023 as Overdose Awareness Day in Stanislaus County

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

1. Proclaim August 31, 2023 as Overdose Awareness Day in Stanislaus County.

**DISCUSSION:**

Provisional data from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) National Center for Health Statistics indicates that the reported number of drug overdose deaths occurring in the United States decreased by 2% from the 12 months ending in December 2021 to the 12 months ending in December 2022, from 107,573 to 105,452. Disruptions to daily life caused by the pandemic continue to impact Americans already in the shadows through further isolation, economic fragility, and fear, while disrupting the treatment and support systems that might have saved them.

According to the CDC, over 150 people die daily from overdoses related to synthetic opioids like fentanyl. Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid 50-100 times stronger than morphine. Pharmaceutical fentanyl was developed as a pain management treatment for cancer patients. Because of its powerful opioid properties, fentanyl is diverted for abuse and illicitly manufactured.

The Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) states that illicit fentanyl, primarily manufactured in foreign clandestine labs and smuggled into the United States through Mexico, is being distributed across the country and sold on the illegal drug market. Fentanyl is mixed in with other illicit drugs to increase the drug's potency, sold as powders and nasal sprays, and increasingly pressed into pills made to look like legitimate prescriptions. Because there is no official oversight or quality control, these counterfeit pills often contain lethal doses of fentanyl.

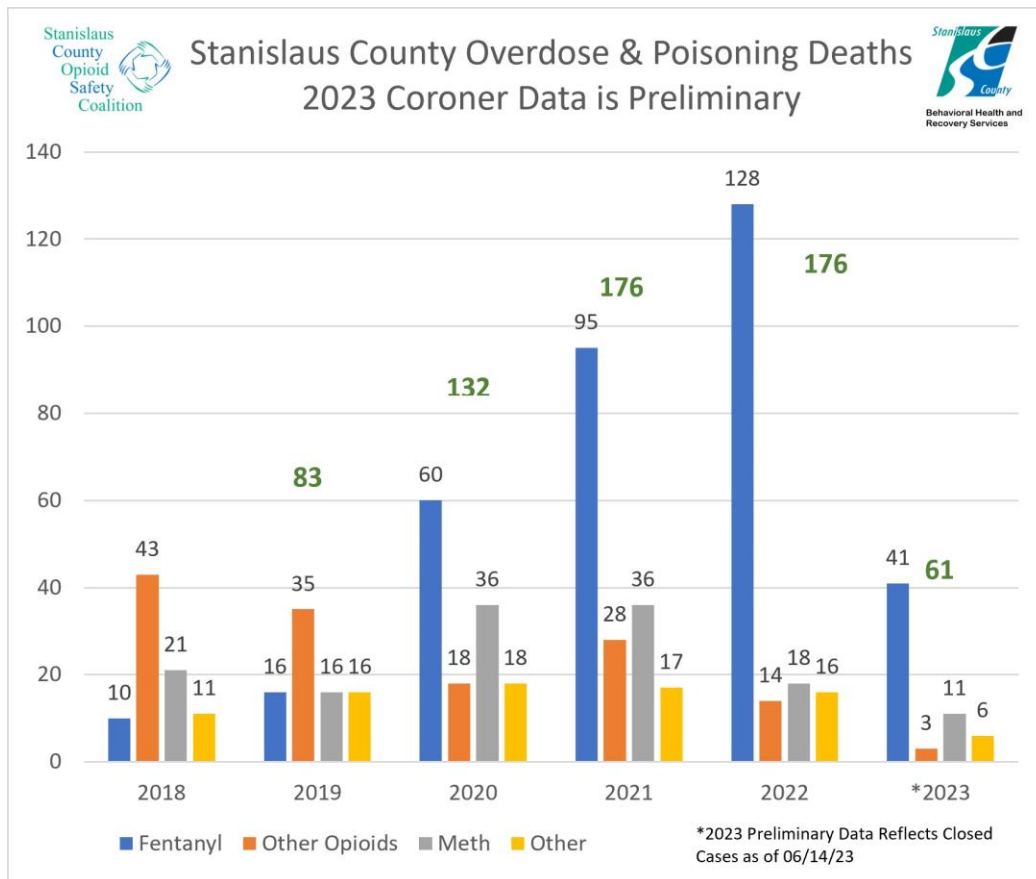
There is a significant risk that illegal drugs have been intentionally contaminated with fentanyl. Because of its potency and low cost, drug dealers have been mixing fentanyl with other drugs, including heroin, methamphetamine, and cocaine, increasing the likelihood of a fatal interaction.

Two milligrams of fentanyl can be lethal depending on a person's body size, tolerance, and past usage. DEA analysis has found counterfeit pills ranging from .02 to 5.1 milligrams (more than twice the lethal dose) of fentanyl per tablet.

- 42% of pills tested for fentanyl contained at least 2 mg of fentanyl, considered a potentially lethal dose.
- Drug trafficking organizations typically distribute fentanyl by the kilogram. One kilogram of fentanyl has the potential to kill 500,000 people.

It is possible for someone to take a pill without knowing it contains fentanyl. It is also possible to take a pill knowing it contains fentanyl but without knowing if it contains a lethal dose.

Per the Stanislaus County Coroner Data, Stanislaus County has recorded 176 total drug-related deaths by overdose and poisoning in calendar year 2022, equivalent to the number of deaths in 2021. However, 2021 deaths increased by 33% over 2020 and deaths increased by 112% between 2019 and 2020. Of the 176 deaths, 142 were opioid related and 128 were fentanyl related. In 2021 and 2022, Stanislaus County averaged 3-4 overdose and poisoning deaths per week. Fentanyl continues to be the primary driver of deaths in our community.



There are several ways that every Stanislaus County resident can help to save lives from overdoses related to synthetic opioids like fentanyl.

### Drug Disposal

Safe and secure drug disposal starts with cleaning out your medicine cabinet. A National Survey on Drug Use and Health asked respondents who misused prescription pain relievers to identify where they obtained the pills that they had most recently

misused. The most common source, reported by half of all respondents, was "from a friend or relative for free." Proper disposal of unused or expired prescription medications prevents drug abuse, accidental overdose, and environmental impacts. The next "Drop the Drugs" event in Stanislaus County will be held on October 28, 2023. Residents can bring medications, including those for pain, such as opioids and fentanyl, in their original containers, which will be incinerated, protecting the identity of the individuals. This is an anonymous and free event. Sharps will also be accepted in a rigid, tightly sealed container.

### Naloxone (Narcan)

Unfortunately, a drug overdose is no longer a rare occurrence. It has become increasingly important that citizens who may witness an opioid overdose or poisoning – by friends, family, or strangers – be familiar with naloxone. Naloxone (brand name: Narcan) is a non-addictive life-saving medication that can reverse the effects of an opioid overdose and poisoning when administered in time. Carrying a naloxone rescue kit is essential if you or someone in your life suffers from opioid use disorder. It is also important to consider having a naloxone rescue kit if you or someone you know has been prescribed opioids. Ask your pharmacist how you may obtain naloxone, even without a prescription. The Stanislaus County Opioid Safety Coalition can also assist in accessing naloxone, visit <http://stancountyrxsafety.org/> for more information.

### Education

It is imperative to get educated about the dangers of illicit fentanyl, overdose, and poisoning, as well as the necessary steps we can all take to save lives. Engaging in open and ongoing conversations with our youth and community about substance misuse, abuse, and addiction is crucial. By starting these discussions early and maintaining an open line of communication, we can help them make informed choices and develop the necessary resilience to resist substance use.

It is important to recognize that stigma surrounding drug addiction exists and affects many individuals; however, perceptions can change. It's crucial to understand that anyone can find themselves dependent on substances regardless of their background or circumstances. Substance use disorder is a disease, not a moral failure.

### Join the Conversation:

Join the second annual Stanislaus County Not My Child 5K Walk/Run to raise awareness of drug overdose and poisoning deaths, August 26, 2023. Visit <http://stancountyrxsafety.org/> for the Not My Child event registration, information, and resources offered by the Stanislaus County Opioid Safety Coalition (SCOSC). The SCOSC meets the 2nd Thursday of each month from 9:00 am - 10:30 am. Community members are encouraged to become an active participant in the conversation and make a difference in the community.

### **POLICY ISSUE:**

Board of Supervisors' approval is required to proclaim August 31, 2023 as Overdose Awareness Day in Stanislaus County.

### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

There are no fiscal impacts associated with this item.

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' PRIORITY:**

The recommended action is consistent with the Board's priority of Supporting a Healthy Community by raising awareness of drug addiction and overdose, to help prevent the loss of lives due to drugs in the community.

**STAFFING IMPACT:**

There are no staffing impacts associated with this item.

**CONTACT PERSON:**

Tony Vartan, MSW, LCSW  
Director, Behavioral Health and Recovery Services

209-525-6222

**ATTACHMENT(S):**

1. Proclamation

**PROCLAIMING AUGUST 31, 2023 AS OVERDOSE AWARENESS DAY IN  
STANISLAUS COUNTY**

WHEREAS, the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors has recognized healthy communities as a priority; and,

WHEREAS, the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors does affirm and acknowledge the harm and hardship caused by drug addiction, overdose, and poisonings; and,

WHEREAS, we recognize the purpose of Overdose Awareness Day as remembering loved ones lost to overdose and poisoning; and,

WHEREAS, people with a substance use disorder recover if provided the necessary treatment services and supports in their communities; and,

WHEREAS, stigma and fear of discrimination keep many who would benefit from substance use disorder treatment services from seeking help; and,

WHEREAS, greater public awareness about substance use disorder and death by overdose and poisonings can change attitudes and behaviors towards people with this illness and their families; and,

WHEREAS, we acknowledge the grief felt by families and friends remembering those who have died or had a permanent injury as a result of a drug overdose and poisonings; and,

WHEREAS, we recognize substance use disorder affects thousands of Stanislaus County residents; and,

WHEREAS, we resolve to play our part in reducing the toll of addiction, overdoses and poisonings in our community, which claimed the lives of 176 Stanislaus County residents in 2022, with countless others affected forever; and,

WHEREAS, we recognize the tragedy of death by overdose and poisonings is preventable.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors does hereby unanimously proclaim August 31, 2023, as Overdose Awareness Day in Stanislaus County.