

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

DEPT: Behavioral Health & Recovery Services

BOARD AGENDA: 5.B.7
AGENDA DATE: August 13, 2024

SUBJECT:

Approval to Proclaim August 31, 2024, as Overdose Awareness Day in Stanislaus County

BOARD ACTION AS FOLLOWS:

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-0430

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

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

MOTION:

ATTEST: Kelly Rodriguez
KELLY RODRIGUEZ, Assistant 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:5.B.7
AGENDA DATE: August 13, 2024

CONSENT: ☒

CEO CONCURRENCE: YES

4/5 Vote Required: No

SUBJECT:

Approval to Proclaim August 31, 2024, as Overdose Awareness Day in Stanislaus County

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

1. Proclaim August 31, 2024, as Overdose Awareness Day in Stanislaus County.

DISCUSSION:

The poisoning and overdose epidemic is a national crisis, and for millions of Americans, it is personal. Every loss is a painful reminder that we must take bold action to end the opioid epidemic. Provisional data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention National Center for Health Statistics indicate there were an estimated 107,543 drug overdose deaths in the United States during 2023—a 3% decrease from the 111,029 deaths estimated in 2022. This marks the first annual decrease in drug overdose deaths since 2018. However, in Stanislaus County, drug-related poisoning, and overdose deaths in 2023 increased by 22%.

Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid that is up to 50 times stronger than heroin and 100 times stronger than morphine. It is a major contributor to fatal and nonfatal poisonings and overdoses in the U.S. Initially developed as an anesthetic, it is primarily used to ease the suffering of patients with chronic pain or terminal illnesses. Fentanyl is now often diverted for abuse and illicitly manufactured.

According to the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), illicit fentanyl, primarily manufactured in foreign clandestine labs and smuggled into the United States through Mexico, is being distributed across the country. Fentanyl is mixed with other illicit drugs, including heroin, methamphetamine, and cocaine, to increase potency, is sold as powders and nasal sprays, and is increasingly pressed into pills that resemble legitimate prescriptions. Due to a lack of official oversight or quality control, these counterfeit pills often contain lethal doses of fentanyl. Two milligrams of fentanyl can be lethal depending on a person's body size, tolerance, and past usage. Laboratory testing indicates that seven out of every ten pills seized by the DEA contain a lethal dose of fentanyl. In 2023, the DEA seized more than 80 million fentanyl-laced fake pills and nearly 12,000 pounds of fentanyl powder. These seizures are equivalent to more than 381 million lethal doses of fentanyl.

According to the Stanislaus County Coroner Data, there were 213 drug-related deaths by poisoning and overdose in Stanislaus County in 2023, marking a 22% increase compared to 2021 (178 deaths) and 2022 (176 deaths). Notably, 2021 saw a 33%

increase in deaths compared to 2020 and a staggering 112% increase between 2019 and 2020. Out of the 213 deaths in 2023, 156 (73%) were opioid-related, with 138 (65%) attributed explicitly to fentanyl. In 2021 and 2022, Stanislaus County averaged 3-4 poisoning and overdose deaths per week. This average rose to 4-5 deaths per week in 2023. Fentanyl remains the primary driver of these fatalities in our community.

Community Actions to Save Lives

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

Drug Disposal: Proper disposal of unused or expired medications prevents drug abuse, accidental poisoning and overdose, and environmental impacts. Visit the [Stanislaus County Opioid Safety Coalition](#) for information on the next "Drop the Drugs" event in Stanislaus County.

Naloxone: Naloxone (brand name: Narcan) is a non-addictive, life-saving medication that can reverse the effects of an opioid poisoning and overdose when administered in time. Ask your pharmacist how you may obtain naloxone, even without a prescription. The [Stanislaus County Opioid Safety Coalition](#) can also assist in accessing naloxone.

Education: It is imperative to be educated about the dangers of illicit fentanyl, poisoning, and overdose and the necessary steps we can all take to save lives. Parents can help protect their children against drug use by providing them with accurate information before they encounter risky situations. The [Stanislaus County Opioid Safety Coalition](#) meets the second Thursday of each month from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Community members are encouraged to participate and make a difference in the community.

Treatment: Medications can be used to treat substance use disorders, sustain recovery, and prevent poisoning and overdose. Contact BHRS's Access and Information line at 1-888-376-6246 or visit the [BHRS website](#).

Not My Child 5K Walk/Run: Join the third annual Stanislaus County Not My Child 5K Walk/Run to raise awareness of drug-related poisoning and overdose deaths on August 31, 2024. Visit the [Stanislaus County Opioid Safety Coalition](#) website for event registration, information, and resources.

POLICY ISSUE:

Board of Supervisors' approval is required to proclaim August 31, 2024, 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, poisoning, and overdose, to 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

**THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS
STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

Date: August 13, 2024

2024-0430

On motion of Supervisor C. Condit Seconded by Supervisor B. Condit
and approved by the following vote,

Ayes: Supervisors: B. Condit, Chiesa, Withrow, C. Condit, and Chairman Grewal

Noes: Supervisors: None

Excused or Absent: Supervisors: None

Abstaining: Supervisor: None

Item # 5.B.7

THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED:

**PROCLAIMING AUGUST 31, 2024 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/or poisoning; and,

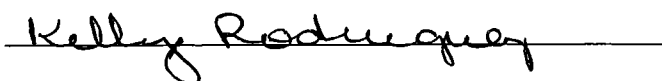
WHEREAS, we recognize substance use disorder affects thousands of Stanislaus County residents; and,

WHEREAS, we resolve to play our part in reducing the toll of addiction, overdoses and poisonings in our community, which claimed the lives of 213 Stanislaus County residents in 2023, 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 proclaims August 31, 2024, as Overdose Awareness Day in Stanislaus County.

**ATTEST: KELLY RODRIGUEZ, Assistant Clerk
Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors,
State of California**

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Kelly Rodriguez", is written over a horizontal line.

File No.