



RESOLUTION NO. 2027-11

A RESOLUTION DECLARING SEPTEMBER AS SUICIDE PREVENTION AWARENESS MONTH AND ENCOURAGING COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO'S FREE ABC SUICIDE INTERVENTION TRAINING PROGRAM

WHEREAS,

Suicide is a preventable public health issue that affects individuals, families, workplaces, schools, and communities throughout New Mexico and the United States; and

WHEREAS,

The New Mexico Department of Health reports that New Mexico has the 5th highest suicide rate in the United States, and New Mexico has the second-highest adolescent suicide rate in the nation, approximately 62% higher than the national average; and

WHEREAS,

Increasing suicide prevention knowledge among community members, employers, educators, first responders, healthcare professionals, faith communities, and civic organizations strengthens New Mexico's ability to recognize warning signs early and connect individuals with lifesaving support; and

WHEREAS,

Suicide impacts people of every age, race, ethnicity, profession, military status, and socioeconomic background, and early recognition, intervention, and community education are proven strategies for reducing suicide risk; and

WHEREAS,

Evidence demonstrates that educating community members to recognize warning signs, engage in supportive conversations, and connect individuals with appropriate resources can save lives; and

WHEREAS,

HARDING COUNTY, NM
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BY Jay J.

The State of New Mexico has made suicide prevention a statewide priority by investing in prevention, intervention, and recovery initiatives, including the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline and evidence-informed community education programs administered through public and higher education partnerships; and

WHEREAS,

The ABC Suicide Intervention Program is a free, evidence-informed suicide intervention training available to every New Mexico resident through online, in-person, and on-demand learning opportunities, equipping participants with practical skills to:

- Recognize warning signs;
- Begin supportive conversations;
- Connect individuals with appropriate resources; and
- Respond confidently until professional help is available;

and

WHEREAS,

Expanding access to suicide prevention education strengthens community resilience, reduces stigma surrounding mental health, and helps create a culture in which asking for help and offering help are viewed as acts of strength; and

WHEREAS,

The County of Harding recognizes that suicide prevention is everyone's responsibility and that local governments play an important leadership role by increasing public awareness, promoting education, and encouraging residents to utilize available community resources.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Governing Body of County of Harding :

Section 1.

Proclaims the month of September as Suicide Prevention Awareness Month within the County of Harding.

Section 2.

Recognizes the importance of evidence-informed suicide prevention education and encourages all residents, businesses, schools, faith communities, nonprofit organizations, healthcare

providers, first responders, employers, veteran organizations, and civic groups to participate in suicide prevention awareness activities throughout September and throughout the year.

Section 3.

Supports statewide efforts to increase access to the **ABC Suicide Intervention Program**, a free evidence-informed suicide intervention training available to all New Mexico residents, and encourages community members to participate in:

- Online live training;
- In-person community training; and
- On-demand self-paced instruction.

Section 4.

Directs staff, to the extent practical and consistent with available resources, to promote Suicide Prevention Awareness Month and the availability of the ABC Suicide Intervention Program through existing communication channels, including the municipality's website, social media platforms, newsletters, community calendars, employee communications, public facilities, libraries, recreation and senior centers, and other appropriate public outreach efforts.

Section 5.

Encourages local employers, educational institutions, healthcare organizations, public safety agencies, libraries, senior centers, youth organizations, and community partners to collaborate in expanding awareness of suicide prevention resources and increasing participation in the ABC Suicide Intervention Program.

Section 6.

Recognizes that together, through education, compassion, and community engagement, lives can be saved and hope can be strengthened throughout New Mexico.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED this 10th day of September 2026.

Michael E Lewis

Michael Lewis, County of Harding Chairman Commissioner

ATTEST:

Melissa S. Gonzalez

Melissa S. Gonzalez, County Clerk

DATA SOURCES

1. **New Mexico Department of Health — Violence Prevention Program Unit**
Suicide-related data, facts, prevention strategies, and statewide resources.
<https://www.nmhealth.org/about/erd/ibeb/oivp/spp/>
2. **New Mexico Department of Health — Suicide Is Preventable: New Mexico Facts and Resources**
New Mexico suicide statistics and recommended prevention strategies.
<https://www.nmhealth.org/publication/view/general/6535/>
3. **New Mexico Department of Health — Suicide Prevention Resource Guide**
State and national resources related to suicide prevention, intervention, crisis response, and data surveillance.
<https://www.nmhealth.org/publication/view/general/7106/>
4. **New Mexico Department of Health — New Mexico Violent Death Reporting System**
Statewide surveillance data compiled from death certificates, medical examiner reports, and law-enforcement reports.
<https://www.nmhealth.org/about/erd/ibeb/ipp/>
5. **Santa Fe Community College — New Mexico Suicide Prevention Initiative and ABC Suicide Intervention Training**
Information regarding the state-funded initiative and free ABC Suicide Intervention training available across New Mexico.
<https://www.sfcc.edu/abc-suicide-prevention/>
6. **Santa Fe Community College — About ABC Suicide Intervention**
Description of the ABC training model: Ask the question, Be present, and Connect to appropriate services.
<https://www.sfcc.edu/abc-suicide-prevention/about/>
7. **988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline — National Suicide Prevention Month**
National information and awareness resources for Suicide Prevention Month.
<https://988lifeline.org/promote-national-suicide-prevention-month/>
8. **988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline**
Information regarding free, confidential crisis support available by calling or texting 988.
<https://988lifeline.org/>