

2022 RES-141

RECOGNIZING AUGUST 31, 2022 AS INTERNATIONAL OVERDOSE AWARENESS DAY

WHEREAS, International Overdose Awareness Day was initiated in 2001 by Sally J. Finn at The Salvation Army in St Kilda, Melbourne and is celebrated every year on August 31 as the world's largest annual campaign to end overdose, remember, without stigma, those who have died, and acknowledge the grief of the family and friends left behind; and

WHEREAS, Public Health Madison and Dane County's Annual Drug Overdose Report 2022 reports that the County has seen a 139% increase in the number of people who died of a drug overdose since 2000; and

WHEREAS, 365 people died from a drug overdose in Dane County from 2018-2020 and there were over 758 opioid-related hospital visits in 2020; and

WHEREAS, long-standing systemic racism and bias have led to communities having unequal access to resources; from 2018-2020 the drug overdose death rate among Black people was more than 3 times the rate among White people; and

WHEREAS, many community groups champion awareness and support, including Safe Communities of Madison-Dane County which has organized International Overdose Awareness Day Remembrance events for five years; and

WHEREAS, ARC Community Services in Dane County is committed to distributing free boxes of the lifesaving overdose reversal drug Narcan on this day and throughout the year; and

WHEREAS, the African American Opioid Coalition (AAOC) focuses on the overall wellness of Black families by educating and raising awareness about opiate addiction including hiring Black peer recovery coaches; and

WHEREAS, the South Central WI GRASP (Grief Recovery After Substance Passing) Chapter acknowledges the profound grief felt by, and works with, families and friends whose loved ones have died or suffered permanent injury from a drug overdose; and

WHEREAS, this day serves as a kick off to September as Recovery Month and a thank you to the dedicated service providers and community members who make recovery, in all its forms, possible.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Dane County Board of Supervisors encourages community residents to: publicly mourn loved ones in a safe environment; send a strong message to people who used or use drugs that they are valued; stimulate discussion about overdose prevention and drug policy within the community; prevent and reduce drug-related harm by supporting evidence-based policy and practice; and to join other leaders around the world talking about the risk of overdose.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Dane County Board of Supervisors recognizes August 31, 2022 as International Overdose Awareness Day.

Patrick Miles, Chair
Dane County Board of Supervisors

Signed and sealed before me this
_____ day of _____, 2022.

Scott McDonell,
Dane County Clerk