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State of New Jersey
GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG ABUSE
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NEIL VAN ESS
Acting Chairman
CELINA LEVY
Executive Director

RESOLUTION

Recognizing August 31, 2023, as “International Overdose Awareness Day” in New Jersey

September 19, 2023

WHEREAS, August 31st, *International Overdose Awareness Day*, is the world’s largest annual campaign to remember without stigma those who have died from overdose, and acknowledge the grief of the family and friends left behind; and

WHEREAS, the theme of *International Overdose Awareness Day 2023*, “*Recognizing those people who go unseen*” is about acknowledging people in our communities who are affected by overdose but might go unseen in the crisis; and

WHEREAS, according to SAMHSA and the latest provisional data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), an estimated 110,000 lives were lost to overdose in the 12-months ending in March 2023, with fentanyl and other synthetic opioids as the main drivers of these deaths, as well as the added challenge of rising fentanyl-involved overdoses being the emergence of xylazine, a non-opioid tranquilizer increasingly mixed with fentanyl in the illicit drug supply; and


WHEREAS, this day provides an opportunity for people to publicly mourn loved ones, send a strong message to people who use drugs and people in recovery that they are valued, inform people around the world about the risk of drug overdose, provide basic information on the range of support services that are available, prevent and reduce drug-related harms by supporting evidence-based practice; and

WHEREAS, the US Department of Health and Human Services have developed The Overdose Prevention Strategy rooted in four main pillars: Primary Prevention, Harm Reduction, Evidence Based Treatment, and Recovery Support; and

WHEREAS, the Governor’s Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse and its Alliance to Prevent Alcoholism and Drug Abuse remain committed to educating communities across New Jersey about overdose prevention employing these pillars while combatting the devastating stigma related to substance use disorders.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Governor’s Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse hereby recognizes August 31, 2023 as “Overdose Awareness Day” in New Jersey.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution shall be transmitted to Governor Phil Murphy, the New Jersey Legislature, the Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services; County Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Directors, and County Alliance Coordinators.



Neil Van Ess, Acting Chairman

September 19, 2023
Date