

September 1, 2026

Board of Supervisors
Kern County Administrative Center
1115 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93301

**REQUEST TO PROCLAIM THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 2026 AS NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION
AWARENESS MONTH IN KERN COUNTY
(Fiscal Impact: None)**

Kern Behavioral Health and Recovery Services (KernBHRS) requests that your Board proclaim the month of September 2026 as Suicide Prevention Awareness Month in Kern County.

KernBHRS, along with our network of providers and community partners, is committed to supporting the well-being of individuals across our community through prevention, early intervention, and responsive, effective treatment.

There is encouraging news nationally, with the number of people dying by suicide decreasing for the second consecutive year. However, suicide remains a serious concern. In 2024, 14.3 million adults in the United States seriously considered suicide, 4.6 million made a suicide plan, and 2.2 million attempted suicide.

Locally, suicide rates in Kern County have remained relatively stable. Over the past year, our local 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline responded to nearly 40,500 calls, texts, and chats, including nearly 7,500 involving suicidal thoughts. These numbers underscore the continued need for accessible crisis support and suicide prevention efforts throughout our community. Through 988, mobile crisis teams, providers, and community partners, we continue working to ensure people have access to support when and where they need it.

September provides an opportunity to increase awareness of suicide prevention and strengthen the network of care and support throughout Kern County. Throughout the month, KernBHRS and our partners will host events that encourage open conversations, connect people with resources, and highlight the role each of us can play in supporting those who may be struggling.

Therefore, IT IS RECOMMENDED that your Board proclaim September 2026 as Suicide Prevention Awareness Month in Kern County, authorize preparation of an official proclamation, and make a formal presentation.

Respectfully,



Alison Burrowes, LCSW
Director

cc: County Administrative Office