



Proclamation

DECLARING SEPTEMBER AS JACKSON COUNTY OPIOID AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS, the disease of substance use disorder and overdose deaths pose a threat to the life, health, and well-being of Jackson County residents and family units; and

WHEREAS, twenty-three (23) Jackson County residents lost their lives to medication and drug overdoses in 2022 alone; and

WHEREAS, Jackson County has a higher rate of medication and drug overdose deaths, and opioid-related deaths, when compared to the state rate, and three (3) of the four (4) surrounding counties; and

WHEREAS, the opioid epidemic has contributed to a rise in serious and costly health consequences; and a significant number and rate of hospitalizations associated with drug withdrawal in newborns and a high number of children in foster care; and

WHEREAS, a lack of behavioral health services, treatment facilities, and harm reduction measures in the region leave residents and families without access to resources for help; and

WHEREAS, substance use disorder and overdose deaths cause pain, suffering, and loss to individuals, families, and communities, across all demographics and regardless of socioeconomic status, that can never be measured.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of Jackson County that September is Jackson County Opioid Awareness Month.

ADOPTED the 3rd day of September, 2024.

Attest:

By:

Angela M. Winchester, Clerk to Board

Mark A. Letson, Chairman