



BY THE PINAL COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS PROCLAMATION SUBSTANCE MISUSE PREVENTION MONTH OCTOBER 2024

WHEREAS, Substance misuse is prevalent in every community and affects all people regardless of age, socioeconomic status, gender, race, religion, or nationality; and

WHEREAS, Substance misuse is the excessive or improper use of alcohol, illegal drugs, over-the-counter, or prescribed medication, which may be harmful; and

WHEREAS, Substance misuse is never an intended outcome, often, a one-time use of a drug can rewire the brain for addiction; and

WHEREAS, 9 out of 10 people who misuse drugs and/or alcohol began using substances before 18 years old; and

WHEREAS, the 2022 Arizona Youth Survey identified alcohol as the most commonly used substance and found that 56% of youth did not perceive substance use as risky; and

WHEREAS, 2 out of 3 adults with a mental health issue considered themselves to be recovering or in recovery; and

WHEREAS, 7 out of 10 adults with a substance use disorder consider themselves to be recovering or in recovery; and

WHEREAS, the 2023 Pinal County Community Health Needs Assessment showed that 62% of Pinal County residents reported that a family member, friend, or themselves had experienced substance misuse; and

WHEREAS, over 2,138 non-fatal overdoses and over 600 deaths have occurred so far this year in Arizona, and Pinal County alone experienced over 243 fatal adult overdoses and 1,560 non-fatal overdoses since 2017; and

WHEREAS, countywide prevention, treatment, and recovery efforts surrounding substance misuse can help our communities; and

WHEREAS, a presidential proclamation in 2011 established October as National Substance Abuse Prevention Month, and Substance Misuse Prevention Month provides an opportunity to increase stigma-free outreach, education, and resources regarding the dangers of substance misuse.

NOW, THEREFORE, WE, the Pinal County Board of Supervisors, do hereby proclaim the month of October 2024 as “**Substance Misuse Prevention Month**” and reaffirm Pinal County’s commitment to creating stigma-free education, accessible prevention, treatment, and recovery efforts for individuals, families, and children in Pinal County. Proclaimed this 2nd day of October 2024.

Mike Goodman, Chairman, District 2

Jeffrey McClure, Vice-Chairman, District 4

Kevin Cavanaugh, District 1

ATTEST:

Stephen Q. Miller, District 3

Natasha Kennedy, Clerk of the Board

Jeff Serdy, District 5