

**WHEREAS**, in the United States, one person dies by suicide every 12.8 minutes, with 41,149 deaths by suicide in our country during 2013.

**WHEREAS**, in our country, suicide is the 2<sup>nd</sup> leading cause of death for 15-24 year olds and is the 10<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death for people of all ages.

**WHEREAS**, suicide is a tragic act. It is estimated that for every suicide there are at least six survivors, immediate family members, relatives, friends, and co-workers who try to understand the pain, confusion and grief following the loss; research shows that during the course of our lifetime 85 percent of us will lose someone we care about to suicide.

**WHEREAS**, far too many Sedgwick County residents and Kansans die by suicide each year, and most of these deaths are preventable;

**WHEREAS**, the mission of the Sedgwick County Suicide Prevention Coalition is to promote and implement evidence based approaches, local research and community change to reduce the impact of suicide with the ultimate goal of zero suicides in Sedgwick County.

**WHEREAS**, in Sedgwick County help is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, by calling the Sedgwick County Suicide Prevention Hotline at 316-660-7500.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that I, Jim Howell, Chairman of the Board of Sedgwick County Commissioners, do hereby proclaim the week of September 5 – 11, 2016, as

### **NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION WEEK**

The topic of suicide will continue to challenge us all to increase our awareness and education, and I call upon the residents of our community to join me in learning to recognize the signs of someone at risk, taking those signs seriously and knowing how to respond.

September 7, 2016