

**WHEREAS**, in the United States, one person dies by suicide every 12 minutes, with an average of 44,193 deaths by suicide a year. Every 4 days someone in Sedgwick County dies by suicide; and

**WHEREAS**, psychological studies have consistently found that the overwhelming majority of people who die by suicide—90% or more—had a mental health disorder at the time of their deaths and often, these disorders had not been recognized, diagnosed, or adequately treated; and

**WHEREAS**, far too many Sedgwick County residents and Kansans die by suicide each year, and most of these deaths are preventable. In 2017, 96 Sedgwick County residents died by suicide; and

**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; and

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

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that I, Chairman David T. Dennis, and the Board of Sedgwick County Commissioners, do hereby proclaim the week of September 9 – 15, 2018, 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 12, 2018