



SNOHOMISH COUNTY COUNCIL
Snohomish County, Washington

RESOLUTION NO. 21-031

**EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR A JOINT STATEMENT AND
RECOGNIZING AUGUST 31, 2021, AS OVERDOSE AWARENESS DAY
IN SNOHOMISH COUNTY**

WHEREAS, addiction is a disease and Overdose Awareness Day raises awareness of overdose and reduces the stigma of substance use-related deaths; and

WHEREAS, Snohomish County residents continue to be deeply affected by addiction and overdoses; and

WHEREAS, during the COVID-19 pandemic, overdose related deaths overall have increased by 27% in Snohomish County and opioid-related overdoses increased by 46%; and

WHEREAS, Washington State Department of Health reports that 231 people in Snohomish County lost their lives to an overdose in 2020, and in the first quarter of 2021, 62 people lost their lives to an overdose; and

WHEREAS, in 2020, first responders saved the lives of 805 people in Snohomish County using Naloxone, and through June 30th of 2021, first responders have saved the lives of 343 people using Naloxone; and

WHEREAS, the Center for Disease Control reports that 173 people die every day from an opioid overdose in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Overdose Awareness Day acknowledges the grief felt by families and friends who have been impacted by this disease, and this day provides an opportunity for people to openly mourn for loved ones without feeling guilt or shame; and

WHEREAS, this day seeks to send a strong message to people currently or formerly struggling with substance use disorder that they are supported, deserving of dignity and respect, and worthy of recovery; and


WHEREAS, Snohomish County Council remains committed to raising awareness and creating opportunities for dialogue in order to combat stigma and educate our community about addiction and overdose prevention;

WHEREAS, Snohomish County Executive, Snohomish County Council, and mayors of Snohomish County cities have signed the attached Joint Statement on Overdose Awareness Day;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Snohomish County Council does hereby recognize the impacts overdose has on our community and proclaim August 31, 2021, as Overdose Awareness Day in Snohomish County and does hereby express support for the attached Joint Statement on Overdose Awareness Day.

We encourage Snohomish County residents to join the Warfield Family, Lee Family, Hope Soldiers, the Snohomish County Opioid Response Multiagency Coordination Group, Snohomish Health District and Snohomish County government on August 31, 2021, at 5:00PM on the Snohomish County Plaza, or via livestream on Snohomish County, Snohomish Health District or Hope Solders Facebook pages, to participate in a resource fair and vigil in remembrance of community members that have lost their lives as a result of an overdose.

APPROVED this 25th day of August, 2021.



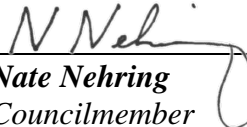
Stephanie Wright
Council Chair



Megan Dunn
Council Vice-Chair




Sam Low
Councilmember



Nate Nehring
Councilmember



Jared Mead
Councilmember

ATTEST: 

Debbie Eco, CMC
Clerk of the Council