

# Alachua County Florida

## A Proclamation

### Declaring September 2023 as “Suicide Prevention Month” in Alachua County, Florida

- Whereas,** suicide is a significant public health issue and we can all work together to support and protect our community; and
- Whereas,** according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, there were 49,369 deaths by suicide during 2022; and
- Whereas,** in our country, suicide is the 2nd leading cause of death for those aged 10 through 34, and the 10th leading cause of death for people of all ages; and
- Whereas,** 3,325 people in Florida died by suicide in 2021; it is the 8<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death in our state; and
- Whereas,** each death by suicide directly impacts numerous family members, friends, loved ones, and by extension the entire community; and
- Whereas,** culturally specific and responsive mental health services are a critical component of supporting communities; and
- Whereas,** LGBTQ youth are more than four times as likely to attempt suicide than their peers; and
- Whereas,** transgender and nonbinary youth are twice as likely to experience depressive symptoms, seriously consider suicide, and attempt suicide compared to their cisgender LGBQ peers; and
- Whereas,** the newly launched 988 Crisis and Suicide Lifeline will make it easier for everyone to access care; and
- Whereas,** the Alachua County Crisis Center offers 24-hour crisis intervention support through phone, face-to-face and telehealth options; and
- Whereas,** the Alachua County Crisis Center is committed to reducing the stigma that surrounds the topic of suicide by raising awareness and providing education and training on suicide prevention; and
- Whereas,** all individuals should be aware of the warning signs and feel empowered to seek help for themselves, loved ones, co-workers, friends; and
- Whereas,** no single suicide prevention effort will be sufficient, everyone is asked to join together and take a stand to prevent suicide.

**Now, therefore, through the authority vested in me by the Board of County Commissioners of Alachua County, Florida, I do hereby proclaim September 2023 as “Suicide Prevention Month” in Alachua County, Florida.**

Duly proclaimed this 12<sup>th</sup> day of September, A.D., 2023.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Anna Prizzia, Chair

ATTEST:

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J.K. “Jess” Irby, Clerk