PROCLAMATION

03 - 2024

PUBLIC HEALTH RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the goal of National Public Health Month in April 2024 is to recognize the contributions of public health in improving the health of the people in Caldwell County; and

WHEREAS, from 2019 to 2021, the life expectancy at birth for the population of the United States declined by 2.7 years, which is the biggest two-year decline in life expectancy since 1921-1923; and

WHEREAS, many of the leading causes of death for individuals in the United States result from chronic conditions, which are among the most common, costly and preventable of all health challenges; and

WHEREAS, 49,449 people died by suicide in 2022, with firearms being used in over 50 percent of suicides; and

WHEREAS, an estimated 1 in 7 children in the United States experienced child abuse and neglect in the past year; and

WHEREAS, significant progress has been made in reducing the infant mortality rate in the United States to a historic low of 5.4 infant deaths per 1,000 live births in 2021; and

WHEREAS, an estimated 60 percent of maternal deaths in the United States are preventable; and

WHEREAS, there was an estimated increase of nearly 15 percent drug overdose deaths in 2021; and

WHEREAS, cigarette smoking is the leading cause of preventable disease and death in the United States; and

WHEREAS, e-cigarettes have been the most used tobacco product among youth since 2014; and

WHEREAS, vaccination is one of the most significant public health achievements in history and has resulted in substantial decreases in the number of cases, hospitalizations, and deaths associated with vaccine-preventable diseases; and

WHEREAS, public health professionals help communities prevent, prepare for, mitigate, and recover from the impact of a full range of health threats, including disease outbreaks, natural disasters, such as wildfires, flooding, and severe storms; and other disasters; and

WHEREAS, public health professionals collaborate with partners outside of the health sector, including city planners, transportation officials, education officials, and private sector businesses, recognizing that other sectors can influence health outcomes; and

Resolved, the Caldwell County Commissioners—

- Supports the goals and ideals of National Public Health Month;
- Recognizes the role of public health in preventing and responding to infectious disease outbreaks; mitigating short-term and long-term impacts of infectious disease outbreaks on the health and wellness of individuals in Caldwell County;
- Addressing social and other determinants of health, including health disparities experienced by minority populations

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that the Caldwell County Board of Commissioners hereby proclaim April 2024 as Public Health Month and call upon the people of Caldwell County to observe this month by helping our families, friends, neighbors, co-workers, and leaders to better understand the value of public health and supporting great opportunities to adopt preventive lifestyle habits.

Adopted this the 8th day of April 2024.

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Randy T. Church, Chairman

Attest: _____
Abigail Rich, County Clerk