

RESOLUTION NO. .

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF SAN MATEO, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

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RESOLUTION DECLARING SUICIDE AMONG MEN AND BOYS A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS IN SAN MATEO COUNTY AND EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR EXECUTIVE ORDER N-31-25 ISSUED BY GOVERNOR GAVIN NEWSOM

WHEREAS, the County of San Mateo recognizes mental health and suicide prevention as critical components of public health, safety, and well-being; and

WHEREAS, suicide remains a leading cause of death among men in the United States, and men account for nearly 80% of all suicides, with young men three times more likely to die by suicide than young women; and

WHEREAS, rates of depression, substance use, disconnection, and social isolation remain disproportionately high among men and boys, and these factors are directly linked to suicide risk and worsening mental health outcomes; and

WHEREAS, societal stigma, gender norms, and a lack of culturally responsive and male-accessible mental health services contribute to the underutilization of behavioral health resources by men and boys; and

WHEREAS, on July 30, 2025, Governor Gavin Newsom issued Executive Order N-31-25, which recognizes the unique challenges facing men and boys and directs state agencies to take immediate and coordinated action to address suicide and other mental health disparities through existing statewide initiatives, including the Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative and the Master Plan for Kids' Mental Health; and

WHEREAS, the Executive Order identifies important pathways for improving mental health outcomes for men and boys by promoting help-seeking behavior, encouraging participation in service and community engagement programs, improving data collection on gender disparities in behavioral health, and expanding career and educational opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the County of San Mateo supports a health-equity framework that addresses mental health disparities across gender, race, age, and socioeconomic status, while also affirming the importance of targeted, supportive strategies for historically underserved populations; and

WHEREAS, San Mateo County is committed to advancing policies that reduce the stigma surrounding male mental health, foster social connection, and encourage proactive outreach and early intervention to prevent suicide;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Mateo declares suicide among men and boys a public health crisis in San Mateo County and affirms support for Executive Order N-31-25 issued by Governor Gavin Newsom; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Mateo:

1. Encourages county departments, community partners, schools, and stakeholders to incorporate gender-responsive mental health strategies and culturally competent outreach for men and boys; and

2. Encourages the expansion of peer-based support models, mental health education, and inclusive access to behavioral health services designed to meet the needs of men and boys; and
3. Encourages continued efforts to improve data collection on mental health disparities and to identify service gaps affecting boys and men in San Mateo County; and
4. Supports the promotion of healthy, connected communities that engage boys and men in meaningful relationships, purpose-driven service, and wellness-oriented environments.

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