

RESOLUTION
of
THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MARIN COUNTY

PROCLAIMING
"PRESCRIPTION DRUG ABUSE AWARENESS MONTH"
MARCH 2014

WHEREAS, prescription drug abuse is the Nation's fastest-growing drug problem; and

WHEREAS, the 2009 National Survey on Drug Use and Health shows that nearly one-third of people aged 12 and over who used drugs for the first time in 2009 began by using a prescription drug non-medically. In 2010 there were more deaths caused by drug overdoses than automobile accidents. In 2011, an estimated 22.5 million Americans aged 12 or older used an illicit drug or abused a prescription drug; and

WHEREAS, nonmedical use of prescription painkillers costs health insurers up to \$72.5 billion annually in direct health-care costs. Overdose deaths involving opioid pain relievers (OPR) now exceed more deaths than heroin and cocaine combined; 52% of all admissions into substance abuse treatment in Marin is for opiate abuse; and

WHEREAS, as many as 70% of people who abuse prescription drugs get them from a relative or friend instead of a doctor. Young people think that abusing prescription drugs to get high is "safer" than abusing illegal drugs; and

WHEREAS, there are over 500,000 prescriptions per year in Marin County; approximately 60 pills for every adult and child; and

WHEREAS, during the last seven National Prescription Drug Take Back Days, a total of 3.4 million pounds of medication were removed from circulation and potential diversion by the DEA and its state, local, tribal law-enforcement and community partners. National Prescription Drug Take Back Day is a reminder for residents to locate their local collection site and safely dispose of their accumulated unwanted, unused prescription drugs; and

WHEREAS, the 2013 National Drug Control Strategy listed four interventions to reduce prescription drug abuse, one of which was to provide safe drug disposal by increasing return and take-back programs. We support California acquiring a sustainably funded and well publicized statewide medication take-back system that is much more convenient to consumers than the current one-day events or disposal at hazardous waste facilities; and

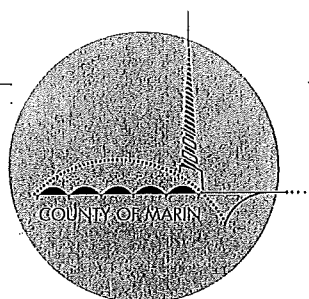
WHEREAS, the National Coalition Against Prescription Drug Abuse, the Alcohol and Other Drugs Advisory Board in cooperation with our Public Health Officer and the Department of Health & Human Services, law enforcement, community based organizations, alcohol and other drugs service providers and civic and business leaders, coordinate Prescription Drug Abuse Awareness Month activities in Marin County to engage our residents in demonstrating their commitment to prevention campaigns and education aimed at raising awareness about the abuse/misuse of prescription drugs, promoting prescription drug safe storing and disposal, and using medications only as prescribed; and

WHEREAS, families, schools, businesses, faith-based communities, law enforcement, medical professionals, county and local governments, health care practitioners and pharmacists of Marin County and the general public will demonstrate their commitment to the prevention of prescription medication abuse by participating in *Marin County's Prescription Drug Misuse and Abuse Initiative*; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Marin hereby proclaims the month of March 2014 as "Prescription Drug Abuse Awareness Month" and encourages people to engage in the prevention and safe disposal strategies promoted herein.

PASSED AND ADOPTED at a regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Marin held this 18th day of March 2014.

KATHRIN SEARS - DISTRICT 3, PRESIDENT



SUSAN L. ADAMS - SUPERVISOR, DISTRICT 1