

Proclamation

211 PROCLAIMS SEPTEMBER AS SUICIDE AWARENESS MONTH

Whereas, it is recognized that suicide deaths have been on the increase in communities across the nation and throughout Florida; and

Whereas, last year, our dedicated and highly trained staff responded to nearly 120,000 requests for help throughout our five-county area. Of these, close to 48,000 people expressed mental health and substance use concerns, with close to 4,000 people requesting help with a suicide crisis; and

Whereas, lingering health and economic challenges, and the continuing housing crisis have taken their toll on mental health with increases in suicidal ideation and deaths, substance use, household violence, food insecurity, and more; and

Whereas, there is a call for a public health response to increase suicide intervention and prevention efforts with increased community-level efforts and strategies; and

Whereas, 2-1-1 is the central access point providing individuals and families with guidance and crisis support via telephone, text, chat and email any time of day or night, and serves as the regional responder for the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline; and

Whereas, 211's highly trained and caring staff work 24 hours a day saving lives—deescalating and stabilizing people in mental health or suicide crisis and guiding people struggling with substance use disorder to connect with the help they need.

Now, Therefore, be it Proclaimed by the Board of County Commissioners of Indian River County, Florida, we urge all citizens to be aware of the only telephone number they need to know to access information for more than 1,600 agency providers. With wide-ranging programs and services throughout our area including food assistance, mental health care, health clinics, growth & development screenings, special needs resources, crisis intervention for elders, daily check-in calls for isolated seniors, caregiver support, veterans' services and more.

Adopted this 23rd day of September 2025.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, FLORIDA**

Joseph E. Flescher, Chairman

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Susan Adams

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