

SANTA FE COUNTY

Resolution No. 2008 - 27

A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 2008 AS "DRUG PREVENTION AND EDUCATION MONTH" IN SANTA FE COUNTY

WHEREAS, recent national data surveys suggest that illegal drug use among youth has declined by 24 percent since 2001; and

WHEREAS, despite the reduction in drug use among youth, the number of 8th, 10th, and 12th grade students who use drugs remains too high and the rates of prescription and over-the-counter drug abuse are alarming; and

WHEREAS, the overall rate of current illegal drug use among persons age 12 and older is 8.3 percent, which has remained stable since 2002; and

WHEREAS, the number of current cocaine users has increased since 2002; and

WHEREAS, 25 percent of youth in the 10th grade reported using marijuana during the past year; and

WHEREAS, youth who first smoke marijuana under the age of 14 are more than five times as likely to abuse drugs in adulthood; and

WHEREAS, nearly six percent of 12th grade students have used over-the-counter cough and cold medications in the past year for the purpose of getting high; and

WHEREAS, Vicodin remains one of the most commonly abused drugs among 12th graders, with one in ten reporting non-medical use within the past year; and

WHEREAS, teenagers' and parents' lack of understanding of the potential harms of these powerful medicines makes it even more critical to raise public awareness about the dangers associated with their non-medical use; and

WHEREAS, the rates of use for any illegal drug are directly related to the perception of harm and social disapproval; and

WHEREAS, more than 20 years of research has demonstrated that prevention interventions, designed and tested to reduce risk and enhance protective factors, can help children at every step along their developmental path, from early childhood into young adulthood; and

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WHEREAS, prevention efforts should be flexible enough to address and prevent local problems before they become national trends; and

WHEREAS, research has demonstrated that there are four major targets of prevention: youth, parents, schools (including colleges and universities), and communities and social environments that must be reinforced by each other to have the greatest effect in deterring the consequences of drug use; and

WHEREAS, a comprehensive blend of individually and environmentally focused efforts must be adopted and a variety of strategies must be implemented across multiple sectors of a community to reduce drug use; and

WHEREAS, community anti-drug coalitions are an essential component of any drug prevention and education campaign because they are data driven, know their community epidemiology, and are capable of understanding and implementing the multi-sector interventions required to reduce the availability and use of drugs; and

WHEREAS, school-based prevention programs should be part of a comprehensive community-wide approach to deal with drug use; and

WHEREAS, the more successful we are at general prevention of drug use in younger adolescents, the less we will have to deal with the concomitant economic and societal consequences of their use; and

WHEREAS, the total economic cost of drug, alcohol, and tobacco abuse in the United States is more than \$500,000,000,000; and

WHEREAS, the savings per dollar spent on substance abuse prevention rather than on substance abuse treatment are substantial and can range from two dollars to twenty dollars; and

WHEREAS, there will always be new and emerging trends that require additional prevention and education efforts; and

WHEREAS, preventing drug use before it begins and educating the public about the dangers of drug use is a critical component of what must be a consistent and comprehensive effort to stunt and decrease drug use rates throughout the country; and

WHEREAS, thousands of community anti-drug coalition leaders and community based substance abuse prevention, treatment, and education specialists travel to Washington, D.C. to receive state-of-the-art technical assistance, training, and education on drug prevention at the Community Anti-Drug Coalition of America's Annual National Leadership Forum in February.

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners of Santa Fe County:

- (1) designates the month of February 2008 as "Drug Prevention and Education Month in Santa Fe County"; and
- (2) urges communities, schools, parents, and youth to engage in, and carry out, appropriate prevention and education activities and programs to reduce and stop drug use before it starts.

PASSED, APPROVED and ADOPTED this 12th DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2008.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS3

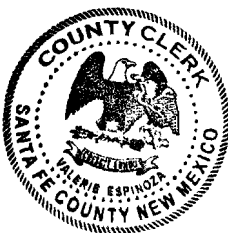

Jack Sullivan, Chairman

ATTEST:


Valerie Espinoza, Santa Fe County Clerk

**APPROVED AS TO FORM:**

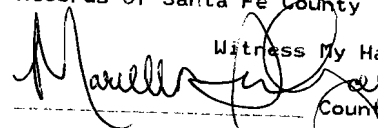

Stephen C. Ross, Santa Fe County Attorney



COUNTY OF SANTA FE)
STATE OF NEW MEXICO) ss

BCC RESOLUTIONS
PAGES: 3

I Hereby Certify That This Instrument Was Filed for
Record On The 22ND Day Of February, A.D., 2008 at 14:25
And Was Duly Recorded as Instrument # **1516260**
Of The Records Of Santa Fe County

Deputy  Witness My Hand And Seal Of Office
Valerie Espinoza
County Clerk, Santa Fe, NM