



County Council

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Snohomish County Council Recognizes National Prevention Week

On Wednesday May 8th, 2019, the Snohomish County Council passed resolution 19-021, recognizing the week of May 12th-18th, 2019 as National Prevention Week in Snohomish County. National Prevention Week is dedicated to increasing public awareness of and addressing substance abuse and mental health issues.

“Substance abuse and mental illness are heavily impacting our community and families,” said County Council Chair Terry Ryan. “National Prevention Week provides an opportunity for us to pause and bring light to the challenges in our community as well as the important work our County and others are doing to positively impact those who struggle”

“I thank Councilmember Low for proposing this resolution and highlighting the importance of drug and suicide prevention,” said Council Vice-Chair Nehring. “While we invest heavily in treatment and recovery, we must also focus on prevention to address the substance use and mental health disorders in our communities.”

National Prevention Week is sponsored annually by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). According to SAMHSA, the primary goals of "National Prevention Week" are as follows:

- 1) Involving communities in raising awareness of behavioral health issues and in implementing prevention strategies.
- 2) Fostering partnerships and collaboration with Federal agencies and national organizations dedicated to behavioral and public health.
- 3) Promoting and disseminating quality behavioral health resources and publications.

In order to achieve these goals, community organizations across the country host health fairs, block parties, educational assemblies, town hall meetings, memorial walks, social media campaigns, and outdoor events during "National Prevention Week" to help raise public awareness of substance abuse and mental health issues.

“Addressing substance abuse and mental health issues is vital to our community because spreading awareness can lead to conversations geared toward preventative measures in our youth,” added Councilmember Brian Sullivan.

“National Prevention Week is about focusing on what we can do as a community to help others overcome mental health and substance abuse,” said Councilmember Sam Low. “In addition, we must draw attention to suicide prevention efforts that are needed now more than ever to help those in desperate need.”

During National Prevention Week, each day observes a different health-related theme to bring attention to and awareness of a specific behavioral health issue. This year’s National Prevention Week theme is “Inspiring Action. Changing Lives.” Keep an eye out for information on these daily themes on the Snohomish County Council’s Facebook page.