



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, addiction is an American Medical Association defined disease and the stigma associated with addiction must be addressed so that no one feels shame or disgrace over a legal or illegal drug poisoning (overdose) and;

WHEREAS, drug poisoning (overdose) is the number one cause of injury deaths in the nation with an accidental drug overdose death occurring every 11 minutes, surpassing deaths from motor vehicle accidents or gun homicides; and

WHEREAS, according to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, 52,404 people died in the United States as a result of a drug poisoning (overdose) or 145 per day during 2015, the most current reporting year; and

WHEREAS, according to the Drug Enforcement Agency, 3,383 drug-related overdose deaths occurred in 2015 from 65 counties in Pennsylvania, there were 1,524 accidental deaths in the State of Pennsylvania during 2015 caused by drug-related (overdose) deaths including 125 in Dauphin County; and

WHEREAS, according to Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council, there were 1,775 hospital patients admitted for prescription opioid drug poisoning (overdose) during 2016 in Pennsylvania, including 34 patients in Dauphin County, 20 in Lebanon County, and 66 in Lancaster County, Per 100,000 Residents;

WHEREAS, by acknowledging all those who have been affected by prescription drug poisoning (overdose), we help the general public understand its effects on the community of Derry Township, Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Derry remains committed to raising awareness in order to combat stigma and educate our community about prescription drug poisoning (overdose) prevention;

NOW THEREFORE, I, John W. Foley, Chairman, Derry Township Board of Supervisors, do hereby proclaim

AUGUST 31, 2017

AS

OVERDOSE AWARENESS DAY

In Derry Township (Hershey), Pennsylvania and urge all residents to learn about this disease and to aid and support those that are affected by it.