

RESOLUTION NO. 2017-___

**PIMA COUNTY RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF RESEARCH, FUNDING
AND EXPANDED ACCESS TO TREATMENT TO ADDRESS
OPIOID DEPENDENCE AND ADDICTION**

The Board of Supervisors of Pima County, Arizona finds:

1. Since 2010, the Pima County Office of the Medical Examiner has been reporting on overdose deaths related to opioid use to facilitate planning of prevention and intervention services.
2. Since 2014, the Pima County Health Department has been tracking substance misuse as reported by hospitals in the inpatient and emergency department setting for the purpose of developing educational materials and empowering community advocates.
3. The 2015 Pima County Community Health Needs Assessment developed collaboratively by the Pima County Health Department, Tucson Medical Center, Banner University Medical Center, Carondelet, Northwest Hospital, El Rio Health Center, Pascua Yaqui Tribe and the Healthy Pima stakeholder coalition identified substance abuse prevention as a major public health priority.
4. Community hospitals, federally qualified health centers, and health practitioners have long recognized the increased public health concerns of opioid use and have been actively engaged in efforts to address the crisis through prevention, counseling, medical therapy, healthcare provider training, and healthcare systems improvement.
5. The Pima County Adult Detention Center has initiated an innovative Medication Assisted Therapy program for pregnant women in our jail population.
6. On June 13, 2017, Governor Doug Ducey issued Executive Order 2017-04 requiring public health officials to gather and report data as part of a statewide effort to improve coordination of opioid prevention activities statewide.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Pima County Board of Supervisors hereby:

1. Commends the Governor for his leadership in the effort to combat the opioid overdose epidemic in the State of Arizona.
2. Requests the Governor call a Special Session of the State Legislature to appropriate funding for counties and local jurisdictions so they may comply with the mandates of the opioid emergency action.

3. Requests an appropriation to address the issues of opioid addiction, including financial support for expanded treatment capacity for substance abuse disorders, especially for adolescents and pregnant women.
4. Encourages the State Legislature to reform sentencing laws to reduce possession of narcotics, marijuana and dangerous drugs for personal use to misdemeanors when the defendant completes treatment alternatives, as well as to decriminalize driving on a suspended license by reducing the offense to a civil traffic violation.

Passed and adopted this _____ day of _____, 2017.

Chair, Pima County Board of Supervisors

ATTEST

APPROVED AS TO FORM

Clerk of the Board



Deputy County Attorney