

# County of Luzerne

PENNSYLVANIA



## Resolution

### *Proclamation*

Human service organizations, health care professionals, educators, and the public are called to action to work together to reduce the occurrence of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD). This can be done by increasing awareness and improving public health efforts in the delivery of the preventive health message that women who are pregnant or considering getting pregnant should abstain from drinking alcohol. In addition to this message, we must increase awareness on how FASD may present in individuals across the lifespan and the ongoing need for services and support for individuals living with FASD.

**WHEREAS**, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) is an umbrella term describing the range of effects that can occur in an individual who was exposed to alcohol before birth; with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS) being the most recognizable condition along the spectrum; and

**WHEREAS**, prenatal alcohol exposure is the leading preventable cause of birth defects and intellectual and developmental disabilities; and

**WHEREAS**, the exact number of people who have FASD is unknown, but it is estimated that up to 1 in 20 U.S. school children may have an FASD, a rate comparable to Autism, and about 40,000 babies are born with effects of prenatal alcohol exposure annually; and

**WHEREAS**, the lifetime cost for one individual with FAS (does not include other FASD) is estimated to be \$2 million, with a combined cost to the United States for FAS alone over \$4 billion annually; and

**WHEREAS**, among pregnant women, 1 in 9 report any alcohol use and about 1 in 26 report binge drinking in the past 30 days; and

**WHEREAS**, many women may not know they are pregnant for the first 4-6 weeks, contributing to late entry into prenatal care and presenting a barrier to optimal pregnancy management, particularly during the crucial early weeks; and

**WHEREAS**, the good health and well-being of the people of Luzerne County are enhanced by the support of a national effort to educate about and prevent FASDs; and

**WHEREAS**, the County of Luzerne joins with Wyoming Valley Alcohol and Drug Services and Luzerne-Wyoming Counties Drug and Alcohol Program as well as many dedicated volunteers, health care professionals, educators, and parent groups by participating in this promotion.

**NOW, THEREFORE, WE**, the Luzerne County Council, do hereby declare September 2020 as Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Awareness Month and pledge to continue to partner with organizations, health care professionals, educators, and the public to raise awareness about our unified message:

*September 2020*

*Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Awareness Month*

**Attest:**

**Luzerne County Council Chair**