



COUNTY LEGISLATURE JACKSON COUNTY, MISSOURI

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MANUEL ABARCA IV
LEGISLATOR, 1ST DISTRICT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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PRESS RELEASE

Jackson County Legislature to Host a Press Conference Proclaiming August 31st as International Overdose Awareness Day and September 2023 as National Recovery Month.

(Kansas City, MO) – In collaboration with First Call, Legislator Manuel Abarca will host a press conference on Thursday, August 31st at 11:00 AM to recognize First Call and present the organization with a resolution proclaiming August 31st as Overdose Awareness Day and declaring September 2023 as National Recovery Month.

First Call, founded in 1958 provides clinical, educational, and prevention services to individuals and families in Greater Kansas City impacted by substance use disorders. “We are thankful for the partnership and light that Legislator Abarca is helping to shine on the overdose crisis that our community is facing. We are also thankful for the families and loved ones that share their stories in hopes that others won’t have stories to share. We commit to those loved ones, to our clients, and to our community that First Call will continue to be a resource for help and hope just as we have been for the last 65 years,” said Emily Hage, First Call President & CEO.

“Raising awareness for International Overdose Day emphasizes the importance of erasing stigma associated with addiction and providing accessible treatment options for individuals battling with substance use disorders. Furthermore, recognizing September as National Recovery Month aims to celebrate the success of those in recovery and highlight contributions of treatment and service providers, like First Call,” said Legislator Manuel Abarca IV.

We invite all members of the media to join us and contribute to the dialogue surrounding addiction, recovery, and the importance of destigmatizing substance use disorders, and providing lifesaving resources and care.

WHAT: Press Conference – International Overdose Day (August 31st) & National Recovery Month (September 2023)

WHEN: Thursday, August 31st, 2023

TIME: 11:00 AM CT

WHERE: Jackson County Courthouse, North Steps
415 E. 12th Street, Kansas City, MO

WHO: Manuel Abarca IV, 1st District Legislator
Frank White, County Executive (*Written Statement*)
Emily Hage, First Call, President & CEO

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Legislator Manuel “Manny” Abarca IV represents Jackson County’s 1st District, In-District. The 1st District is located along the northwestern and western border of Jackson County. The 1st District contains a wide range of neighborhoods including the booming downtown of Kansas City, MO. Legislator Abarca is the Chair of the Budget Committee, the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DE&I) Committee, and the Health and Environment Committee. Legislator Abarca also sits on the Anti-Crime Committee, Rules Committee, Inter-governmental Affairs Committee, and Housing and Homelessness Committee.

*Harry S. Truman, Presiding Judge,
1927-1934*

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