

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

PROCLAMATION NO. _____

Proclaiming September 2017 as Recovery Month in Multnomah County.

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Finds:

1. Substance use disorder and mental illness are serious public health issues in Multnomah County. These conditions can cause problems at work, school or at home, and affect the overall wellness of individuals, family members, neighbors, and our communities at large.

2. According to the U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), Oregon has one of the highest rates of residents experiencing mental health issues or substance use disorder. Many individuals experience both substance use disorder and mental health issues at the same time.

3. Behavioral health is integral to overall health and well-being and should be treated with the same urgency as physical health. Mental illness can influence the onset, progression, and outcome of other illnesses and often is linked with substance abuse. Multnomah County recognizes the need for integrated treatment that addresses both mental health and substance use conditions.

4. Anyone can experience substance use disorder, including addiction to prescription pain medication. Between 2000 and 2013 there were 2,226 deaths in Oregon due to prescription opioid drug overdose. Multnomah County is taking action to prevent, respond to, and end Oregon's opioid epidemic.

5. Behavioral health conditions -- including mental health issues, substance use disorder, and problem gambling -- are preventable and treatable. It is important for people with lived experiences, and their loved ones, to recognize the signs and symptoms and seek help.

6. Everyone deserves access to recovery services in the least restrictive environment. Multnomah County will continue to seek alternatives to incarceration for people experiencing substance use disorder by investing in diversion and nationally-recognized recovery supported housing programs.

7. People experiencing substance use or mental health issues should be able to participate fully in their community and should have access to appropriate healthcare, safe and healthy housing, economic opportunity and understanding from community members.

8. With time, energy and support from loved ones and community helpers, people can and do recover from substance use and mental health issues. Multnomah County is committed to helping all residents experiencing behavioral health issues by providing services that are accessible, culturally responsive and supported by peers.

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Proclaims:

The month of September 2017 is proclaimed to be Recovery Month in Multnomah County, Oregon. All county residents are invited to observe this year's theme, "Strengthen Families and Communities," which highlights the value of family support during recovery.

ADOPTED this 14th day of September, 2017.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON**

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SUBMITTED BY:
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