

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

**PROCLAMATION NO. 2019-080**

Proclaiming September 2019 as Recovery Month in Multnomah County, Oregon.

**The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Finds:**

- a. Substance use disorder and mental illness are serious public health issues in Multnomah County. Multnomah County supports Governor Brown's declaration that addiction is a public health crisis in Oregon. Populations who are marginalized experience these issues at a disproportionately higher rate than counterparts. 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.
- b. According to the U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), Oregon has the 4th highest rate of residents experiencing substance use disorder in the Country, with two-thirds of Oregonians having a friend or family member with some form of addiction.
- c. Anyone can be diagnosed with a mental illness or substance use disorder, regardless of income, status or belief system. Many live with both diagnoses, which impact the wellness of individuals, family members, neighbors and the community at large. The conditions often require multiple episodes of care and a lifetime of support.
- d. 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 use disorder. Multnomah County recognizes the need for integrated treatment that addresses both mental health and substance use conditions.
- e. According to the Oregon Health Authority, methamphetamine-related deaths are on the rise in Multnomah County, and alcohol-related deaths have continued to increase over the last two decades state-wide. Multnomah County continues to invest time and resources into prevention and recovery efforts to promote health and wellness for all residents.
- f. Opioid drug use, including prescription pain medication, continues to be a concern in the State and the County. Between 2013 and 2017, 425 of the State's 1,356 total deaths due to opioid drug overdose were in Multnomah County. Multnomah County has a higher rate of deaths due to opioid drug overdose than the State as a whole (Oregon Health Authority). Multnomah County is taking action to prevent, respond to, and end Oregon's opioid epidemic.
- g. 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.

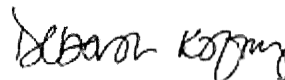
- h. Everyone deserves access to recovery services in the least restrictive environment. Multnomah County will continue to seek alternatives to incarceration for people experiencing substance use disorder by investing in diversion and nationally-recognized, culturally specific and culturally responsive recovery supported housing programs.
- i. Oregon's Alcohol and Drug Policy Commission's strategic plan aims to reduce the number of residents who are untreated. The County supports the Commission's plan, and our federal and local elected leaders to take immediate steps to reduce Oregon's untreated addiction rate from 9.5% to 6.5% and increase the state's recovery rate by 25% in five years.
- j. 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.
- k. 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 specific and culturally responsive, and supported by peers.

**The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Proclaims:**

- 1. The month of September 2019 is proclaimed to be Recovery Month in Multnomah County, Oregon. All county residents are invited to celebrate this year's theme, "Join the Voices for Recovery: Together We Are Stronger," which explores the important role we all play in hope and recovery for individuals, families and communities impacted by mental illness and substance use disorder. People can and do recover. There is hope, and help is available. We invite all residents to share their stories of hope and recovery in observance of this month.

**ADOPTED this 19th day of September, 2019.**

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON




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Deborah Kafoury, Chair



REVIEWED:  
JENNY M. MADKOUR, COUNTY ATTORNEY  
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON



By \_\_\_\_\_  
Jenny M. Madkour, County Attorney

SUBMITTED BY: Patricia Charles-Heathers