

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

**PROCLAMATION NO. 2021-095**

Proclaiming September 2021 as Recovery Month in Multnomah County, Oregon.

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

A. Recovery Month is celebrated every September to increase awareness that prevention, treatment and recovery services are available and effective in helping people with substance use disorders to succeed in achieving their goals for health and wellness. The 2021 National theme for Recovery Month is “Recovery is for Everyone: Every Individual, Every Family, Every Community.”

B. Anyone can experience a substance use disorder that may lead to problems at work, school, or at home and affect the overall wellness of individuals, families, and communities. Some population groups are at much higher risk. These include persons from diverse backgrounds and cultures, rural residents; the LGBTQ+ community; older adults; persons with disabilities; and those experiencing homelessness, with low income or low education, and otherwise adversely impacted by social determinants of health.

C. Many individuals who already struggle with substance misuse are also struggling with social, financial, and health disruptions during the COVID-19 pandemic. The ongoing epidemic of racism, and the racial unrest of the past year have coincided with the prolonged isolation and hardships brought on by the virus. Oregon saw a near 40% increase in overdose fatalities in 2020.

D. There are multiple routes to treatment and recovery. There is no one “right” method that works for everyone. It’s important for each individual to choose what is right for them, and remember that recovery is on-going and not time limited.

E. Many individuals live with both substance use disorders and mental health challenges. Multnomah County recognizes the need for integrated behavioral health treatment. Behavioral health is vital to overall health and well-being and should be treated with the same urgency as physical health.

F. Substance use is identified as a social indicator of health. People who face substance use disorders often are excluded from positive social engagement and opportunities, which can lead to shortened life spans and a host of other social and health challenges. Engaging in meaningful prevention work, including peer recovery support, changes life outcomes in healthy ways.

G. People experiencing substance use or mental health issues should be free from stigma, and able to participate fully in their community with access to appropriate healthcare, safe and healthy housing, economic opportunity, and support from community members. People in recovery need community support to thrive, and communities thrive when people experience increased wellness.

H. Multnomah County is committed to helping all residents experiencing behavioral health challenges by providing an array of services that are accessible, culturally specific and responsive, and supported by peers with similar lived experience.

I. Individuals can and do recover. Multnomah County celebrates this month in recognition of the fact that every individual's journey of recovery contributes to healthier communities, including improved relationships with families and friends, increased stability in employment and housing, and opportunities to use their lived experience to promote recovery for others.

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

The month of September 2021 is proclaimed to be Recovery Month in Multnomah County, Oregon. All county residents are invited to celebrate this year's theme, "Recovery is for Everyone, Every Individual, Every Family, Every Community," which emphasizes the important role we all play in supporting recovery for individuals, families and communities impacted by substance use disorders. 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 16th day of September, 2021.**



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:** Ebony Clarke, Director