

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

**PROCLAMATION NO. 2022-079**

Proclaiming September 2022 as Recovery Month in Multnomah County, Oregon.

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

- a. Recovery Month is celebrated every September to promote the right and resources for recovery through advocacy, education and demonstrating the power and proof that people can and do achieve long-term recovery goals.
- b. We call attention to the tremendous work of peers, providers, community members and county staff to ensure that effective, trauma-informed, and culturally responsive prevention, harm reduction, treatment and recovery services are available for all of our community members who are impacted by substance use.
- c. Over the past two and a half years, our communities have lived through Covid, and social unrest due to generations of systemic racism, deepening the impact of economic, social, and health disruptions. We have seen an increase in substance use, overdose and battling COVID-related stress and isolation - during which we saw a higher acuity of substance use as well as new, more harmful forms of substances like fentanyl and methamphetamine.
- d. In spite of this, inspiring, positive stories of recovery continue to emerge. People find hope and healing in the way that best suits who they are. There is no one “right” way, but rather a continuous journey that includes prevention, harm reduction, housing, employment support, treatment, and peer recovery support.
- e. We applaud state and CCO investments in workforce development, treatment reimbursement rates, and substance use services through multiple legislative actions. These efforts will lead to a more diverse workforce and service continuum that will benefit all Multnomah County residents.
- f. A wave of new programs have been fueled by progressive thinking that moves away from strict abstinence models to include trauma-informed harm reduction policies, including peer delivered services designed to reduce barriers and support individual goals without abstinence requirements.

- g. We also celebrate the innovation and partnership building work of the many community based organizations throughout Multnomah County. Multiple Behavioral Health Resource Networks (BHRNs) stemmed from a proactive, collaborative process. For example, the Indigeninity and Latinx/a/o BHRNs focus on culturally specific and linguistic services in addition to partnership with new harm reduction programs, including those offering recovery housing. These organizations have been creative in addressing the residential treatment gap.
- h. Multnomah County is making new investments in Peer Delivered Services that will equip peers to serve persons with both substance use and mental health needs, and further strengthen the growing number of culturally specific peer recovery services. This includes expanding our Office of Consumer Engagement and how we are designing the new Behavioral Health Resource Center.
- i. Most promising, perhaps, is the growing integration of people with lived experience taking on roles as peer recovery mentors. Outcomes show that programs employing peers see greater success in helping individuals along the path to recovery. For example, 4D Recovery, which runs peer-supported programs, reported a 39% increase in the number of clients served in the first half of 2022 over the same timeframe in 2021. Peers working in programs run by community organizations, such as the Mental Health and Addictions Association of Oregon and Fora Health,, are able to more deeply connect with individuals as they share their similar stories of struggle, hope and change in their recovery journeys.
- j. Multnomah County has prioritized culturally specific services and supports across the continuum of care as demonstrated through directing new county and one time state investment funds to these organizations. In the past fiscal year, we've added or expanded contracts with culturally specific partners such as Painted Horse, Miracles, Northwest Instituto Latino, Puentes and Faithbridge to meet the needs of communities that are most impacted by health disparities, including Black, Indigenous and other People of Color. We strive to apply a Racial Equity lens to each of our investments and in our decision-making efforts.
- k. Recovery is about more than substance use. Multnomah County is committed to creating a system of support that addresses the whole person, whether the need is substance use, gambling, mental health, or physical health. People don't live in silos, nor should our services.
- l. Behavioral health is vital to overall health and well-being, and should be treated - and improvements celebrated - with the same urgency as other conditions such as hypertension, diabetes, and heart disease.

- m. With Recovery Month, we celebrate movement away from past stigma surrounding substance use and gambling disorders, toward a brighter future of resilience and successful recovery. This community - individuals in recovery, their families and the multitude of committed providers and staff who serve them - is only growing stronger. Multnomah County will continue to seek new ways to expand access and support, and offer new resources.
- n. Every journey of recovery contributes to healthier communities, improved relationships, increased stability, and opportunities to use lived experience to promote recovery for others.

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

The month of September 2022 is proclaimed to be Recovery Month in Multnomah County, Oregon. All county residents are invited to commit to continuing support of recovery for those impacted by substance use disorders. This month, we invite you to celebrate those who are achieving their goals for recovery and wellness, and encourage you to share information about programs, resources and services to help others take their first steps toward a healthier life.

**ADOPTED this 8th day of September, 2022.**



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

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Lori Stegmann, Vice-Chair

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

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

SUBMITTED BY: Julie Dodge, Interim Director of Behavioral Health Division.