

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

**PROCLAMATION NO. 2024-076**

Proclaiming September 2024 as Recovery Month in Multnomah County, Oregon.

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

- A. “Join the voices of recovery: Together we are stronger.” Multnomah County observes September as Recovery Month. Recovery Month is meant to increase awareness about substance use disorders, decrease the stigma surrounding addiction and amplify the voices of those with lived experience. We recognize the complexities and challenges that individuals may face at any phase in their journey. We also want to acknowledge there are both external and internal barriers that people are facing.
- B. Connection to community is more critical than ever. We ask that all of the community join us in the fight against addiction and support those at all stages of recovery. That is why this year's theme couldn't be more fitting (Join the voices of recovery: Together we are stronger).
- C. Often the community at large may feel that our current crisis is not their problem to solve or may not know what they can do to help. Sometimes it can be easier to look the other way until the problem is knocking at your front door. The truth is this problem has affected all of our lives in one form or another. No one is exempt! It has impacted our business community, our local and state politicians, the behavioral health workforce, first responders, families of all colors and everyone in between, but most importantly, the people who have lost their battle to this disease that will never get to join our fight. This is a call to action! We are asking all to Join the voices of recovery because we cannot do this alone. Yes, people are dying and that should not go unheard but neither should the voices of all the people who are recovering from addiction. There is hope, people are living full and wholesome lives.
- D. From the 2021 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, for substance use specifically, of the 29.0 million adults who perceived that they ever had a substance use problem, 72.2% (or 20.9 million) considered themselves to be in recovery or to have recovered from their drug or alcohol use problem. Fentanyl and poly-substance use is still devastating our community and more, has had an unpredictable, life-threatening impact on our community. Although individuals are suffering, effective recovery requires engagement from the community around them. Our proclamation celebrates hope and aims to reduce stigma surrounding individuals with substance use issues.

- E. We will highlight successes in recovery and in advocacy. Multnomah County is still managing the impacts of COVID, including the isolation that has contributed to an increase in the acuity of issues related to substance use. Multnomah County Behavioral Health Division is eager to move toward a more hopeful future in partnership with community treatment and recovery support service providers. We want to effectively reach Multnomah County Community members in need of services and support to overcome substance use challenges.
  
- F. Sharing inspiring stories of recovery builds understanding and promotes wellness for all Multnomah County residents. Recovery Month allows us an opportunity to center around this growing need, and engage our community in awareness and support of this work. Recovery is not only possible but it is probable with the right supports in place.

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

The month of September 2024 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 12th day of September, 2024



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

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Jessica Vega Pederson, Chair

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

By:

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Jenny M. Madkour, County Attorney

SUBMITTED BY: Heather Mirasol