

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

PROCLAMATION NO. 2020-079

Proclaiming September 2020 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.
- b. The 2020 National theme for Recovery Month is “Join the Voices of Recovery: Celebrating Connection.” Connection is essential to recovery now more than ever. People cannot recover alone. The impact of COVID 19 has isolated many individuals from their recovery support, and has disproportionately affected Black, Indigenous, and people of color, as well as other marginalized communities. At the same time, we are starting to learn new ways to connect via virtual platforms, and increase access to support for people around the world. Recovery month inspires people to recognize the resilience of individuals in recovery and the value of peer support.
- c. 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, friends, and communities. Everyone deserves access to recovery services. Multnomah County will continue to invest in culturally specific and responsive recovery programs, including guidance from communities that share similar lived experience.
- d. Oregon has the 3rd highest rate of residents experiencing substance use disorders in the country, and ranks 47th in providing access to treatment. 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 in taking 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.
- e. Many individuals live with both substance use disorders and mental health challenges. Multnomah County recognizes the need for integrated behavioral health treatment and peer support that addresses both substance use and mental health conditions. Behavioral health is vital to overall health and well-being and should be treated with the same urgency as physical health.
- f. 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 support from community members.
- g. Individuals can and do recover. 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.

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Proclaims:

The month of September 2020 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: Celebrate Connection,” which emphasizes the important role we all play in hope and 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.

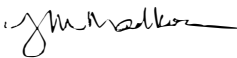
ADOPTED this 17th day of September, 2020.



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

Deborah Kafoury, Chair

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

By 

Jenny M. Madkour, County Attorney

SUBMITTED BY: Patricia Charles-Heathers, Director