

The State of Maryland



Proclamation

From the Governor of the State of Maryland

NATIONAL RECOVERY MONTH SEPTEMBER 2015

WHEREAS, The latest National Surveys on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) estimate 7 percent of Marylanders age 12 and older, and 22 percent between the ages of 18 and 25, are dependent on or abused alcohol and/or illicit drugs in the past year; 400,000 individuals were provided prevention services, and over 50,000 citizens received State-supported alcohol and drug abuse treatment. The National Surveys also estimate 5 percent of Marylanders over age 17 had a mental illness in the past year. In the same period, there were 176,656 individuals served in the Public Mental Health System; and

WHEREAS, Behavioral health is an essential part of health and one's overall wellness, and there are many unique ways people can prevent behavioral health issues, seek treatment, and sustain recovery. Recovery is a process through which individuals live a self-directed life and strive to reach their full potential. Prevention, treatment, continued care and recovery support services increase employment and reduce substance use, homelessness, and crime; and

WHEREAS, Hundreds of health care professionals and peer support specialists across Maryland have dedicated their lives to help people achieve and sustain long-term recovery, increasing awareness that with proper support, people with behavioral health disorders can and do enter and sustain recovery; and

WHEREAS, The Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Behavioral Health Administration supports and recognizes all who live with behavioral health disorders salutes those who are in treatment and recovery; acknowledges the important role that providers, family, peers, and the community play in the ongoing recovery process; and

WHEREAS, The acknowledgment of September 2015 as National Recovery Month in Maryland offers the prevention, intervention, treatment, and recovery communities an opportunity to continue to educate the public and policymakers about the effectiveness of prevention and treatment, and the need to continue to increase access to a comprehensive, recovery-oriented system of care.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, LAWRENCE J. HOGAN, JR., GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND, do hereby proclaim September 2015 as National Recovery Month, and call upon the people of our state to observe this month with appropriate programs, activities, and ceremonies supporting this year's theme, "Join the Voice for Recovery: Visible, Vocal, Valuable!"

Given Under My Hand and the Great Seal of the State of Maryland,
this 1st day of September
Two Thousand and fifteen

Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr.
Governor

Toy A. Ayers
Lt. Governor

John C. Walmstedt
Secretary of State

