

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS  
ACTION AGENDA SUMMARY

DEPT: Behavioral Health and Recovery Services

BOARD AGENDA # \*A-6

Urgent

Routine

AGENDA DATE August 19, 2008

CEO Concurs with Recommendation YES  NO

4/5 Vote Required YES  NO

(Information Attached)

SUBJECT:

Approval to Proclaim September 2008 as Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month in Stanislaus County

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

Approve proclaiming September 2008 as National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month in Stanislaus County.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this item.

BOARD ACTION AS FOLLOWS:

No. 2008-586

On motion of Supervisor DeMartini, Seconded by Supervisor Grover

and approved by the following vote,

Ayes: Supervisors: O'Brien, Grover, Monteith, DeMartini and Chairman Mayfield

Noes: Supervisors: None

Excused or Absent: Supervisors: None

Abstaining: Supervisor: None

1) X Approved as recommended

2) \_\_\_\_\_ Denied

3) \_\_\_\_\_ Approved as amended

4) \_\_\_\_\_ Other:

MOTION:



ATTEST: CHRISTINE FERRARO TALLMAN, Clerk

File No.

**DISCUSSION:**

The goal of the 19<sup>th</sup> annual National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month is to bring together people with substance abuse disorders, their families, and treatment providers to share stories and empower others to take the necessary steps toward recovery.

Designating September as Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month is an awareness effort to celebrate the positive impact of treatment for addiction in communities throughout the nation. September is set aside to recognize the strides made in treatment and to educate the public that addiction is a treatable health problem that affects us all. The theme for the 19<sup>th</sup> annual Recovery Month scheduled for September 2008 is "Join the Voices for Recovery: Real People, Real Recovery".

Dependence on alcohol and/or drugs is a widespread health and social problem that, in some way, negatively affects as much as 69% of the country. Alcohol and drug use disorders can affect anyone – all ages, races, and communities. Facts include the following:

- Approximately 22.6 million people, 12 years of age or older, in the United States are suffering from a substance use disorder
- There are approximately 12,000 new users of alcohol per year according to recent studies
- 79% of the nation's heavy drinkers are employed
- One in four deaths each year is attributable to alcohol, tobacco, and illicit drug use

Those who are particularly vulnerable include individuals with a co-occurring mental disorder or those who have certain risk factors, including poverty or a family history of alcohol or drug use disorders. Alcohol and drug use disorders affect not just the individuals who are in need of treatment, but also their family members (particularly the children of those affected), friends, co-workers and others who interact with them. Undoubtedly, the effects of helping one person achieve recovery can improve many lives.

Addiction is a medical condition that can be as effectively treated as other chronic conditions, such as high blood pressure, asthma, and diabetes. Nationally, up to 70% of individuals treated for alcohol dependence are successful in getting into recovery. At Stanislaus Recovery Center, approximately 80% of our clients achieve sobriety as compared with an average of 60% statewide. Treatment for a substance use disorder also helps the person beyond eliminating alcohol and/or drug use. More than half of the people assessed in a recent study reported improvements in health, mental health, and family relationships. With treatment, clients at Stanislaus Recovery Center reduced the incidence of health problems by 48% and serious family conflicts by 65%. In addition, research indicates that problems at work are cut by an average of 75% among employees who have received treatment for addiction.

Unfortunately, many individuals who need treatment do not receive it. It is estimated that of the 22.6 million individuals with substance use disorders, only 18% receive treatment. Stigma and fears of discrimination continue to be strong barriers to treatment. Nearly 25% of the people who needed treatment cited the negative effect on a job or a fear of rejection by their communities as reasons that they did not receive treatment. By encouraging those individuals in recovery to speak out, we hope that others will be motivated to pursue their own recovery.

Each year, public and private agencies and constituency groups plan special events commemorating Recovery Month. Locally, Behavioral Health and Recovery Services will be supporting the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Rally for Recovery scheduled for September 20 at Graceda Park and orchestrated by the Stanislaus County Recovery Alumni Association.

**POLICY ISSUES:**

The Board of Supervisors must determine the merits of proclaiming September as Recovery Month in an effort to make the public aware of issues concerning alcohol and drug use disorders and celebrate people in recovery. Approval of the proclamation supports the Board's priorities of *A safe community* and *A healthy community*.

**STAFFING IMPACT:**

There are no staffing impacts associated with this item.

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

\*A-6

Date: August 19, 2008

No. 2008-586

On motion of Supervisor DeMartini Seconded by Supervisor Grover  
and approved by the following vote,

Ayes: Supervisors: O'Brien, Grover, Monteith, DeMartini, and Chairman Mayfield

Noes: Supervisors: None

Excused or Absent: Supervisors: None

Abstaining: Supervisor: None

THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED:

PROCLAMATION

STANISLAUS COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 2008 AS ALCOHOL AND DRUG ADDICTION RECOVERY MONTH

Whereas, the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors has recognized A safe community and A healthy community as priorities; and

Whereas, substance use disorders impact 22.6 million people in the United States; and

Whereas, alcohol and drug use disorders affect all people, regardless of race, age, gender or social status and their families; and

Whereas, treatment for substance use disorders can lead to more productive and fulfilling lives, personally and professionally; and

Whereas, it is critical that we educate our community members that substance use disorders are treatable, are serious health care problems, and by treating them like other chronic diseases, we can improve the quality of life for our entire community; and

Whereas, recovery is possible and with appropriate treatment and support from family, friends and the community, those individuals suffering from alcohol and drug abuse disorders can recover; and

Whereas, Behavioral Health and Recovery Services and the Advisory Board on Substance Abuse Programs support the 15th Annual Rally for Recovery; and

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors does hereby proclaim September 2008 as ALCOHOL AND DRUG ADDICTION RECOVERY MONTH in Stanislaus County.

ATTEST: **CHRISTINE FERRARO TALLMAN, Clerk**  
**Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors,**  
**State of California**

