

W. G. A.

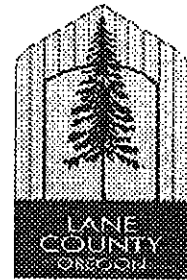
## AGENDA COVER MEMO

AGENDA DATE: September 15, 2004

TO: Board of County Commissioners

DEPARTMENT: Health & Human Services

PRESENTED BY: Rob Rockstroh



AGENDA TITLE: IN THE MATTER OF PROCLAIMING SEPTEMBER 2004 AS NATIONAL ALCOHOL AND DRUG ADDICTION RECOVERY MONTH

### I. MOTION

To Proclaim September 2004 as National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month

### II. ISSUE OR PROBLEM

To promote the societal benefits of alcohol and drug use disorder treatment, laud the contributions of treatment providers and promote the message that recovery from alcohol and drug use disorders in all its forms is possible through the proclamation of September as National Alcohol & Drug Addiction Recovery Month.

### III. DISCUSSION

#### A. Background / Analysis

The 15<sup>th</sup> annual National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month will be observed during September 2004. Lane County has joined with the state and national celebrations for recovery in the past two years. In 2003 the focus was on recognition of substance abuse and co-occurring mental disorders and co-existing physical illnesses as a national health crisis affecting millions of individuals. In 2002 the emphasis was to highlight each person's responsibility and encourage everyone to help incorporate community treatment and recovery services as an integral part of the public health system. This year's focus is on improving access to recovery among the large number of Americans who have difficulty obtaining treatment for alcohol or drug use disorders.

Alcohol and drug use disorders, which are defined as misuse, dependence, or addiction to alcohol and/or legal or illegal drugs, take an enormous toll on

society. Helping people recover from these disorders and lead healthy, productive lives is an important component of our nation's health care agenda.

An estimated 19.5 million Americans age 12 years and older were current drug users in 2002. In the same year, 76 percent of people in need of treatment for a problem with illicit drugs did not seek or receive treatment.

The latest federal survey found that Oregon:

- Ranks in the top ten nationally for illicit drug use in people 12 years and older;
- Ranks fourth in the nation in illicit drug use among adults 26 years and older;
- Ranks fourth in the nation in drug abuse and dependence among 18 to 25 year olds; however, in regard to **access to treatment**:
  - a) Ranks 45<sup>th</sup> in the nation for adults; and,
  - b) Ranks 49<sup>th</sup> in the nation for individuals 18 to 25 year olds.

In Lane County, the state generated Treatment Outcome Improvement Report for fiscal year 2002 showed:

- 7,809 adults (estimated) would seek treatment in the fiscal year; while only,
- 6,597 were enrolled in a treatment program during the year; leaving
- 1,212 adults (estimated) without needed treatment.

The societal benefits of investing in drug and alcohol addiction treatment are staggering. Untreated substance abuse disorders result in excess costs associated with inpatient and emergency room care, the criminal justice system, homelessness, joblessness, welfare, and child welfare. The toll substance abuse takes on family, friends, and community is immeasurable.

In the past 20 years, medical science has made great strides in learning about substance use and the nature of addiction. Addiction is a chronic illness that involves brain chemistry. Treatment for addiction is as effective as treatments for other chronic medical conditions, such as diabetes and high blood pressure.

For every \$1 invested in treatment, there is a return of between \$4 and \$7 in reduced drug-related crime, criminal justice costs, and theft. When savings related to health care are included, total savings can exceed costs by a ratio of 12 to 1 (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services). However, spending

on treatment is relatively limited. The total cost to society of substance abuse is nearly 25 times what the United States spends on treatment (ibid.).

Financial support for treatment services in Lane County has suffered enormous losses. The estimated annual figure for services in the 2001-03 fiscal biennium is \$1,827,839 less than the previous biennium. This resulted in lack of treatment for 3,056 individuals (estimated) who sought services. Some funding was added back in July 2004 with the reinstatement of Oregon Health Plan coverage for a limited number of individuals on the Standard Plan. However, if the formula of 12 to 1 is applied to this reduction, this loss has resulted in an increased cost of \$21,934,068 to Lane County for drug-related crime, criminal justice costs, theft and, health care.

The Oregon Governor's Council on Alcohol & Drug Abuse Programs is sponsoring an Addiction Recovery Forum on September 24, 2004 from 9:00 to 11:30 in Salem. The forum is designed to begin a dialogue that will lead to development of creative and innovative solutions to help people find recovery.

The goal of the forum is to increase public and legislative awareness of:

- Recovery community and recovery advocacy organizations;
- Effectiveness of treatment and new recovery approaches;
- Oregon trends in drug use and addiction; and,
- Treatment gaps.

Commissioner Bobby Green and Judge Darryl Larson from Lane County will be among other speakers at the forum. Commissioner Green will be presenting with State Representative Vickie Berger and State Senator Jackie Winters on policy/legislative viewpoint. Judge Larson will be presenting with Max Williams, director, Department of Corrections and former state representative on approaches to reduce crime and recidivism.

In Lane County the Department of Health & Human Services is working with our subcontracted treatment providers to monitor the number of individuals waiting to enter treatment and to improve access to services. Treatment outcomes for clients served in county-funded programs include; access to treatment, engagement in treatment, retention in treatment, reduced use while in treatment and completion of treatment. Lane County's performance on these outcome measures, with the exception of access, is above the mean. The treatment services performance in the midst of funding losses is due to the dedicated clinical staff and agency personnel that make up the treatment service system in our county. Their dedication to this essential and important work is admirable, especially, given the financial uncertainty of the funding base.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's Center for Substance Abuse Treatment; the Office of National Drug Control Policy; and, the State of Oregon invite all residents of Lane County to participate in ***National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month***.

B. Alternatives / Options

1. To declare September 2004 as National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month.
2. Not to declare September 2004 as National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month.

C. Recommendation

The Board of County Commissioners declares September 2004 as National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month.

D. Timing

Upon Board approval, September 2004 will be declared National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month.

**IV. IMPLEMENTATION**

Implementation will be completed as stated above in Timing.

**V. ATTACHMENT**

Board Order

I:/Admin/Jennette/Board Orders/National Recovery Month 2004 BO.doc

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, LANE COUNTY, OREGON

RESOLUTION: ) IN THE MATTER OF PROCLAIMING SEPTEMBER 2004 AS  
                  ) NATIONAL ALCOHOL AND DRUG ADDICTION RECOVERY  
                  ) MONTH

WHEREAS, September 2004 is celebrated across the country as National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month; and

WHEREAS, barriers to accessing treatment are a significant problem for people; with alcohol or drug use disorders; and

WHEREAS, such barriers include failures to identify affected people and direct them to treatment, inadequate public and private insurance coverage for treatment services, and shrinking state budgets that limit funding for treatment programs; and

WHEREAS, saluting people who are in recovery from alcohol and drug use disorders, as well as those who have helped them obtain treatment, helps to overcome such barriers by educating the community about the benefits of treatment, and affirming the goal that all people with alcohol and drug use disorders should have access to treatment services; and

WHEREAS, to help achieve this goal, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, the Office of National Drug Control Policy, the State of Oregon invite all residents of Lane County to participate in ***National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month; and***

WHEREAS, acknowledging September 2004 offers those involved in substance abuse treatment an opportunity to educate the public, community organizations, public officials, and civic leaders about the effectiveness of treatment, both societal and financial;

NOW THEREFORE IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED AND ORDERED, that the Lane County Board of County Commissioners proclaim the month of September 2004 as **National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month** and encourage all citizens to support this year's theme "**Join the Voices of Recovery... Now!**" by supporting women, men, and youth who are in drug and alcohol addiction treatment and recovery and their families.

DATED this \_\_\_\_\_ of September, 2004

\_\_\_\_\_  
Bobby Green, Sr., Chair  
Lane County Board of Commissioners

APPROVED AS TO FORM  
Date 9/6/04 lane county  
Heidi Law  
OFFICE OF LEGAL COUNSEL