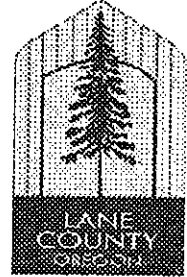


T. 4. a.

AGENDA COVER MEMO

AGENDA DATE: September 13, 2005
TO: Board of County Commissioners
DEPARTMENT: Health & Human Services
PRESENTED BY: Rob Rockstroh



AGENDA TITLE: ORDER _____ / IN THE MATTER OF PROCLAIMING
SEPTEMBER 2005 AS NATIONAL ALCOHOL AND DRUG
ADDICTION RECOVERY MONTH

I. MOTION

ORDER _____ / In the Matter of Proclaiming September 2005 as National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month

II. ISSUE OR PROBLEM

To promote the societal benefits of alcohol and drug use disorder treatment, highlight the impact of treatment on criminal behavior 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 16th annual National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month will be observed during September 2005. Lane County has joined with the state and national celebrations for recovery in past years. This year Lane County's emphasis is on the impact of addiction treatment on crime.

Alcohol and drug use disorders are defined as misuse, dependence, or addiction to alcohol and/or legal or illegal drugs.

Millions of Americans have substance use disorders. Millions more people live in households with people who have had problems with alcohol or drugs. As many as 63 percent of Americans say that addiction to alcohol or other drugs has had an impact on them at some point in their lives, whether it was the

addiction of a friend or family member or another experience, such as their own personal addiction.¹

There is a well-established link between substance abuse and criminal behavior. Society spends huge amounts of money, time, and effort on this problem. A 2001 national study found that between 50 and 70 percent of arrestees are addicted to illegal drugs.²

Treating substance abuse decreases the cost of the criminal justice system and treatment works! Coerced treatment is as effective as voluntary treatment, in part due to the fact that clients remain in treatment longer, and a longer length of stay is associated with reduced rates of relapse.³ A national comparison of criminal behavior and arrests during a 12-month period before and after treatment shows substantial reductions in criminal behavior and arrests after treatment:

- Selling drugs declined by 78 percent;
- Those who reported shoplifting declined by almost 82 percent;
- Before treatment, almost half the respondents reported "beating someone up." Following treatment that number declined to 11 percent; a 78 percent decrease;
- Changes in arrest rates were less striking than those in self-reported criminal behavior, but the 64 percent reduction in arrests for any crime was still dramatic; and
- The percentage who largely supported themselves through illegal activity dropped by nearly half – decreasing more than 48 percent.⁴

Drug Court is one criminal justice model that has proven unequivocally to reduce criminal recidivism and costs of healthcare, food stamps, unemployment, child welfare and other costs to the taxpayer.

Lane County Adult Drug Court is a felony and misdemeanor diversion program with a potential for dismissal of the charge(s) upon successful completion of the program's requirements. The Court operates under the jurisdiction of the Lane County Circuit Court and was implemented in 1994 through a partnership between the Circuit Court, District Attorney's Office, Public Defender Services, and other public and private agencies and organizations. Drug Court is a unique blending of criminal case processing and treatment, which brings together many diverse organizations for the purpose of helping drug-affected offenders become responsible citizens. The objectives of the court are:

- Divert eligible drug offenders out of the traditional criminal justice system into appropriate drug treatment;
- Closely monitor participants' progress toward recovery with frequent drug testing and frequent court appearances;

- Consistently and rapidly apply positive and/or negative reinforcement for compliance or non-compliance.

Oregon Judicial Department data show that of 1,072 drug court graduates throughout the state between 2001 and 2003, 89 percent had no new charges in the year after graduating. A Multnomah County Drug Court study found in the two-year period following graduation or termination, offenders who participated in drug court had:

- 58 percent fewer arrests for property crimes;
- 75 percent fewer arrests for felony person crimes;
- 80 percent fewer probation/parole violation arrests.⁵

In Lane County Drug Court, 62 percent of unemployed drug treatment court participants who graduated gained employment in 2002-03 and 77 percent of unemployed drug treatment court participants who graduated gained employment in 2003-04.

Making treatment affordable and helping people with substance use disorders achieve recovery through affordable treatment is an important component of public safety and community health. Investing in treatment is worthwhile: For every \$1 invested in treatment, there is a return of between \$4 and \$7 in reduced drug-related crime and criminal justice costs. When savings related to health care are included, total savings can exceed costs by a ratio of 12 to 1.⁶

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 2005 as National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month.
2. Not to declare September 2005 as National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month.

C. Recommendation

The Board of County Commissioners declares September 2005 as National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month.

D. Timing

Upon Board approval, September 2005 will be declared National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month.

IV. IMPLEMENTATION

Implementation will be completed as stated above in Timing.

V. ATTACHMENT

Attachment A - Bibliography

Attachment B - Board Order

l:/Admin/Jennette/Board Orders/National Recovery Month 2005 BO.doc

Attachment A
Bibliography

1. Faces & Voices of Recovery Public Survey, Washington, D.C.: Peter D. Hart Research Associates, Inc., and Coldwater Corporation, May 4, 2004. p.1.
2. Issues in Science and Technology, Alan Leshner, Director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse, Spring 2001.
3. Weinman, 1992; Young, 1995; Inciardi, 1996.
4. NTIES Findings on Changes in Criminal Behavior, National Treatment Improvement Evaluation Study, SAMHSA .gov, 2005
5. Drug Courts: Facts and Figures, Oregon Department of Human Services, Office of Mental Health and Addiction Services, 2005.
6. Principles of Drug Addiction Treatment: A Research-Based Guide. p.21.

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, LANE COUNTY, OREGON

RESOLUTION:) IN THE MATTER OF PROCLAIMING SEPTEMBER 2005 AS
) NATIONAL ALCOHOL AND DRUG ADDICTION RECOVERY
) MONTH

WHEREAS, September 2005 is celebrated across the country as National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month; and

WHEREAS, as many as 63 percent of Americans say that addiction to alcohol or other drugs has had an impact on them at some point in their lives, whether it was the addiction of a friend or family member or another experience, such as their own personal addiction; and

WHEREAS, There is a well-established link between substance abuse and criminal behavior and untreated substance abuse puts our community at risk and increases the cost of the criminal justice system; and

WHEREAS, treatment works to reduce criminal recidivism and costs of healthcare, food stamps, unemployment, child welfare and other costs to the taxpayer; and,

WHEREAS, making treatment affordable and helping people with substance use disorders achieve recovery through affordable treatment is an important component of public safety and community health; 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 2005 offers those involved in substance abuse treatment and the criminal justice system 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 2005 as **National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month** and encourage all citizens to support this year's theme "**Join the Voices of Recovery... Healing Lives, Families & Communities.**" by supporting the criminal justice system and the women, men, and youth who are in drug and alcohol addiction treatment and recovery and their families.

DATED this _____ of September, 2005.

APPROVED AS TO FORM

Date 8/31/05 lane county
Maidlaw
OFFICE OF LEGAL COUNSEL

Anna Morrison., Chair
Lane County Board of Commissioners