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Center for Mental Health Services  
Center for Substance Abuse  
Prevention  
Center for Substance Abuse  
Treatment  
Rockville MD 20857

Mayor William Dalton  
City of Garden Grove  
P.O. Box 3070  
Garden Grove, CA 92842-

Dear Mayor William Dalton:

**National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month (Recovery Month)** is celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> year of observance this September. This year's theme, "*Join the Voices for Recovery: Together We Learn, Together We Heal*" emphasizes the need to use all available resources, both in our communities and on the Internet, to educate people about the disease of addiction, seek help, and heal. It also celebrates those who have worked to advance the treatment and recovery landscape. **Recovery Month** is designed to help people understand there is hope and that help for alcohol and drug use disorders is effective and available.

According to the 2007 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH), published by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), 23.2 million persons aged 12 or older (9.4 percent of persons aged 12 or older) needed treatment for an illicit drug or alcohol use problem. Of these, 15.5 million were dependent on or abused alcohol but not illicit drugs, 3.7 million were dependent on or abused illicit drugs but not alcohol, and 3.2 million were classified with dependence on or abuse of both alcohol and illicit drugs.

In 2007, 3.9 million persons aged 12 or older (1.6 percent of the population) received some kind of treatment for a problem related to the use of alcohol or illicit drugs. Unfortunately, there are millions more in need of treatment but who are either unable or unwilling to receive it for a variety of reasons. Luckily, there is a wide range of services available to reduce the problem of addiction.

Health care, addiction treatment and recovery services for those in need is a national health priority. In the past several years, steps have been taken to help expand treatment capacity and recovery support services in our country. To help increase the number of available treatment options, SAMHSA is leading the Access to Recovery initiative, a consumer-driven approach for obtaining treatment and sustaining recovery through a State-run voucher program. Working with all levels of government, communities, businesses and society as a whole, SAMHSA is working to create a healthcare system that both embraces and understands the need for more drug and alcohol treatment services.

SAMHSA, the Federal **Recovery Month** coordinator, partners with other public sector entities, national and local coalitions, and other organizations to develop a **Recovery Month** activities toolkit, as well as other special events held throughout the Nation during the month of September. For your review and use, we have enclosed a copy of the 2009 toolkit.

In 2008 there were 853 events held in local communities throughout the country, reaching an estimated one million Americans. In 2009 we hope to exceed this number, including the SAMHSA-sponsored community events during the month of September. These community events will examine key treatment and recovery-related issues in local communities, and will define specific objectives and action steps to broaden support and access for individuals in recovery. Each event seeks to unite a range of stakeholders in taking action, including individuals in the recovery community and their families and friends; policymakers and community leaders; judges; insurers; health professionals; treatment providers; educators/schools; community-based and faith-based organizations; the criminal justice system; diverse racial, ethnic and cultural groups; and members of the media.

To get the latest information on these and other events nationwide, and to find those nearest to you, go to our **Recovery Month** Web site at [www.recoverymonth.gov](http://www.recoverymonth.gov). Click on the 2009 **Recovery Month** icon and select events.

The enclosed toolkit was also sent to other State, city and municipal officials. We encourage your local State Substance Abuse Director to join the many field networks and coalitions that will organize **Recovery Month** activities. Please support their requests for drafting a **Recovery Month** proclamation for your jurisdiction and hosting a proclamation-signing media event.

Please make sure to fill out the Customer Satisfaction Survey located in the **Recovery Month** toolkit, and send information concerning your celebration and any materials produced to the address listed on the form. Your input and comments will assist in the development of future material and programs that can best meet your needs.

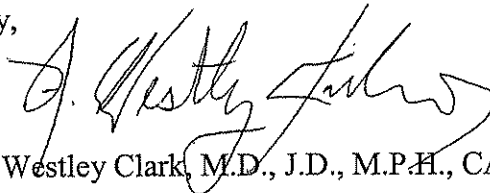
In addition, please encourage everyone to post any planned activities within your State, district, city, town, or municipality on the **Recovery Month** Web site at [www.recoverymonth.gov](http://www.recoverymonth.gov). For additional information about this observance, please contact Ivette Torres at SAMHSA's Center for Substance Abuse Treatment, Consumer Affairs office ([ivette.torres@samhsa.hhs.gov](mailto:ivette.torres@samhsa.hhs.gov)), at (240) 276-2757, or through [www.recoverymonth.gov](http://www.recoverymonth.gov).

Thank you for your efforts on behalf of the millions of citizens who are in recovery and their families. We look forward to your participation and support in this year's **Recovery Month** activities.

Sincerely,



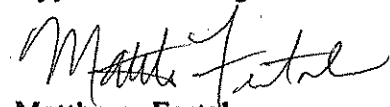
Eric B. Broderick, D.D.S., M.P.H.  
Acting Administrator  
Substance Abuse and Mental Health  
Services Administration



H. Westley Clark, M.D., J.D., M.P.H., CAS, FASAM  
Director  
Center for Substance Abuse Treatment  
Substance Abuse and Mental Health  
Services Administration

Enclosure

**Approved for Agenda Listing**



Matthew Fernal  
City Manager