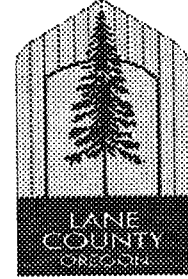


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## AGENDA COVER MEMO

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AGENDA DATE: September 10, 2003  
TO: Board of County Commissioners  
DEPARTMENT: Health & Human Services  
PRESENTED BY: Rob Rockstroh



AGENDA TITLE: IN THE MATTER OF PROCLAIMING SEPTEMBER 2003 AS NATIONAL ALCOHOL AND DRUG ADDICTION RECOVERY MONTH

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### I. MOTION

TO PROCLAIM SEPTEMBER 2003 AS NATIONAL ALCOHOL AND DRUG ADDICTION RECOVERY MONTH

### II. ISSUE OR PROBLEM

To highlight the strides made in substance abuse treatment and to educate the public that addiction is a chronic but treatable, public health problem that affects us all.

### III. DISCUSSION

#### A. Background / Analysis

The 14<sup>th</sup> annual National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month will be observed during September 2003. 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.

Substance use and addiction result in huge societal and economic costs. It was recently estimated that the cost of untreated addiction in the United States is \$294 billion a year. Despite this staggering statistic, 76 percent of people in need of treatment for a problem with illicit drugs did not seek or receive treatment. To further compound the problem, about half of those with a lifetime substance abuse disorder also experience a lifetime history of at least one mental disorder. Likewise, roughly half of those with one or more lifetime mental disorders also have a lifetime history of

at least one substance abuse disorder. In addition, many men, women, and youth who are addicted suffer from a wide range of co-existing physical illnesses, such as cardiovascular disease, hypertension, diabetes, hepatitis C, and AIDS, among others.

It is imperative that people with co-occurring disorders are properly diagnosed and treated. As the U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's **Report to Congress on the Prevention and Treatment of Co-occurring Substance Abuse Disorders and Mental Disorders** points out: "If one of the co-occurring disorders goes untreated, both usually get worse and additional complications often arise. The combination of disorders can result in poor response to traditional treatments and increases the risk for other serious medical problems (e.g., HIV, hepatitis B and C, cardiac and pulmonary diseases), suicide, criminalization, unemployment, homelessness, and separation from families and communities."

Untreated mental, physical, and 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.

**National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month** celebrates the tremendous strides taken by individuals who have undergone successful treatment, families in recovery, and those in the treatment field who have dedicated their lives to helping people recover. This year's theme, "**Join the Voices for Recovery: Celebrating Health,**" invites all segments of society to join the recovery community in improving the quality of treatment programs and coordinated services in an effort to eradicate the disease of addiction.

In Lane County, a unique, specialized diversion court was developed in 1997 for individuals with co-occurring disorders involved in the criminal justice system. Since its inception, the COD Court has provided supervision for 220 people. These individuals receive intensive case management and treatment. The case management provided through the Sheriff's Office assists people in obtaining needed supports such as medical services, housing, transportation and services to meet other basic needs. Lane County Mental Health (LCMH) has developed an intensive outpatient treatment program to address both the mental disorder and the substance abuse disease experienced by these individuals. LCMH is one of many treatment agencies in Lane County that have developed specialized intensive treatment programs for people with co-occurring disorders. There have been many inspiring stories of individuals who have regained the ability to care for themselves, function with family and become engaged with society.

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 2003 as National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month.
2. Not to declare September 2003 as National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month.

**C. Recommendation**

The Board of County Commissioners declares September 2003 as National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month.

**D. Timing**

Upon Board approval, September 2003 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

Jennette \ National Recovery Month 2003 BO

**THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, LANE COUNTY, OREGON**

**RESOLUTION:** ) IN THE MATTER OF PROCLAIMING SEPTEMBER 2003 AS  
                  ) NATIONAL ALCOHOL AND DRUG ADDICTION RECOVERY  
                  ) MONTH

WHEREAS, September 2003 is celebrated across the country as National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month; and

WHEREAS, substance abuse and co-occurring mental disorders and co-existing physical illnesses are major public health problems that affect millions of Americans of all ages, races, and ethnic backgrounds and in all communities, and have huge medical, societal, and economic costs; and

WHEREAS, people with co-occurring substance abuse and mental disorders can and do recover, and people with co-occurring substance abuse and mental disorders deserve access to the services they need to recover; and

WHEREAS, thousands of health care providers have dedicated their lives to the recovery process and to the education of the public about alcoholism, drug dependence, co-occurring disorders, and treatment issues; and

WHEREAS, 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 participate in ***National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month***; and

WHEREAS, acknowledging September 2003 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 2003 as **National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month** and encourage all citizens to support this year's theme "**Join the Voices of Recovery: Celebrating Health.**" by supporting women, men, and youth who are in drug and alcohol addiction treatment and recovery and their families.

DATED this \_\_\_\_\_ of September, 2003

\_\_\_\_\_  
Peter Sorenson, Chair  
LANE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

APPROVED AS TO FORM

Date 8/29/03 lane county

[Signature]  
OFFICE OF LEGAL COUNSEL