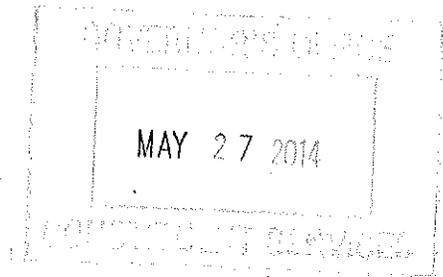




MAY 16 2014

The Honorable Deval Patrick  
State House  
Office of the Governor, Room 360  
Boston, MA 02133



Dear Governor Patrick:

Every September, millions of people throughout the country gather to participate in activities and events commemorating National Recovery Month (Recovery Month), sponsored by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). This year's theme: "Join the Voices for Recovery: Speak Up! Reach Out!" is a call to reach out and assist all Americans to better understand that people with mental and substance use disorders can and do recover from these conditions and go on to live productive lives. I am writing to extend an invitation for you to join us in celebrating the millions of individuals and families living in recovery.

The most recent reports from the National Survey on Drug Use and Health indicate approximately 43.7 million adults aged 18 years or older had a mental illness in the past year,<sup>1</sup> and approximately 22 million people aged 12 years or older were classified with substance dependence or abuse in the past year.<sup>2</sup> During this same period, 17.38 percent of all Massachusetts residents 18 years and older had a mental health disorder and 9.33 percent had a substance use disorder. These numbers are a reminder that we must do more to prevent and treat those living with behavioral health needs and more importantly, bring awareness and hope that recovery is possible.

We are planning to make this 25<sup>th</sup> year the most successful Recovery Month. Your support is vital in this effort. SAMHSA would like to post a proclamation from each of the 50 states and territories noting September 2014 as Recovery Month. Sample proclamations and all materials pertinent to this observance are available at [www.recoverymonth.gov](http://www.recoverymonth.gov).

<sup>1</sup> Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, *Results from the 2012 National Survey on Drug Use and Health: Mental Health Findings*, NSDUH Series H-47, HHS Publication No. (SMA) 13-4805. Rockville, MD: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, 2013, p. 1.

<sup>2</sup> Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, *Results from the 2012 National Survey on Drug Use and Health: Summary of National Findings*, NSDUH Series H-46, HHS Publication No. (SMA) 13-4795. Rockville, MD: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, 2013, p. 6.

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The State Behavioral Health Advisory Council and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Commissioners or Directors in your state can assist in facilitating this process. Once the proclamation is issued we will post it on the Recovery Month website.

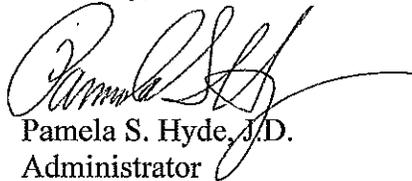
Additionally, SAMHSA would like to bring to your attention the Ramstad/Kennedy Award which was enacted by the Recovery Month Planning Partners to promote recovery and to remind us that recovery is the ultimate goal. This coveted award, of which Congressman Ramstad and Congressman Kennedy are so proud, recognizes the state's commitment to promoting Recovery Month programs and activities. The winning state director will be traveled to the National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors conference, where the presentation will be made. More information related to this award can be obtained by contacting [ssarmaward@nacoa.org](mailto:ssarmaward@nacoa.org).

With your help, this nation will no doubt experience one of the most successful and dynamic years in the 25-year history of Recovery Month. SAMHSA is most grateful for your assistance.

If you have any questions or need assistance with your Recovery Month proclamation or related activities, please contact Ivette Torres, Office of Consumer Affairs, at SAMHSA's Center for Substance Abuse Treatment by email [ivette.torres@samhsa.hhs.gov](mailto:ivette.torres@samhsa.hhs.gov) or call 240-276-2757.

Thank you again for your support and engagement in the 2014 Recovery Month observance.

Sincerely,



Pamela S. Hyde, J.D.  
Administrator