

## RESOLUTION

**WHEREAS**, substance use disorders affect over 46 million people in the United States every year, with 29.5 million people diagnosed with an alcohol use disorder, 24 million with a drug use disorder, and 7.3 million with both an alcohol use and drug use disorder (National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 2021).

WHEREAS, effective prevention, treatment, harm reduction, and recovery services help reduce the prevalence and impact of substance use disorders.

WHEREAS, peer recovery support services help people begin and maintain their recovery from substance use disorders. Peers, through shared understanding and respect, help others as they strive for improved health, purpose, a safe and stable home, and a sense of community.

WHEREAS, recovery support services help individuals navigate unique challenges, connect to services and resources, and facilitate healthy social activities and support systems that support their recovery goals.

WHEREAS, Recovery Community Organizations (RCOs) serve as critical entities that provide peer-based recovery support services, carry out recovery-focused community education and outreach programs, and other critical functions.

**WHEREAS**, recovery housing is associated with a number of positive outcomes for residents, including decreased substance use, reduced likelihood of return to use, lower rates of incarceration, higher income, increased employment, and improved family relationships (<u>SAMHSA</u>, 2023).

**WHEREAS**, the message of hope and healing associated with recovery is bolstered by the finding that there are 20.9 million Americans aged 18 or older in recovery from a substance use disorder (<u>National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 2021</u>). Recovery is a reality.

WHEREAS, members of the National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors (NASADAD) manage the publicly-funded substance use disorder system across the country. These agencies, also known as SSAs, appreciate partnering with peers, RCOs, recovery housing leaders, and others to expand access to quality recovery support services and programming. SSAs also appreciate partnering with the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and its Office of Recovery.

**WHEREAS**, the Recovery Month Planning Partners have been tireless leaders in promoting National Recovery Month, including support of the annual Ramstad-Kennedy Award for Outstanding Leadership to recognize a State Alcohol and Drug Agency Director who has demonstrated strong support for recovery and National Recovery Month events.

**NOW THEREFORE,** be it resolved that, on this day, September 22, 2023, on behalf of State alcohol and drug agency directors, the NASADAD Board of Directors hereby observes September as National Recovery Month and encourages the membership to support programs and activities that promote recovery from substance use disorders- not only in September but throughout the year.

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