

**MEMORANDUM
PLACER COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Adult System of Care**

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors

FROM: Richard J. Burton, M.D., M.P.H.
Placer County Health Officer and Director of Health & Human Services
Maureen F. Bauman, Director of Adult System of Care

DATE: September 12, 2006

SUBJECT: Approve a Resolution proclaiming September 2006 as National Alcohol & Drug Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery Month in Placer County

ACTION REQUESTED:

Approve the attached Resolution proclaiming September 2006 as National Alcohol & Drug Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery Month in Placer County.

BACKGROUND:

In Placer County, many people are living productive, satisfying lives as a result of recovery from alcoholism and drug addiction. Many of these citizens have received the assistance they needed through Placer's Drug Court, the Proposition 36 program, and services through our ten contracted substance abuse providers. Others have been referred to community-based treatment through our Health and Human Services Systems of Care. In partnership with the Courts, Probation, the District Attorney's office, the Public Defender, and Health and Human Services, many Placer County residents who have completed substance abuse treatment have seen their children returned, and have begun to lead more healthy and productive lives.

Treatment graduates are more likely to be employed. On average, 30% of Drug Court clients are unemployed when they enter the program, and 80% are employed when they graduate. Drug Court clients who achieve recovery are far less likely (80% less likely in Placer County) to commit new crimes, creating safer communities. More good news is that an extensive body of Federally-funded research shows that with treatment, very large decreases in drug use, drug- and alcohol-related medical visits, and criminal activity are experienced, while financial self-sufficiency improves (e.g. employment increases, and Welfare receipt and homelessness decline). So we can say without question that treatment works and recovery happens! In addition, 30 years of advances in science have reshaped our understanding of addiction and have created an array of effective treatment interventions. Treatment has proven to be cost effective. Conservative estimates are that for every \$1 invested in addiction treatment, a return of between \$4 and \$7 in reduced drug-related crime, criminal justice costs, and losses from theft results. When savings to health care are included, total savings can exceed costs by a ratio of 12 to 1. The entire community benefits.

For individuals receiving treatment for addiction, the attitude toward treatment and the support of family, friends, and the community at large is critical. Our role in making timely interventions, motivating the individual with the problem to seek help, and supporting that person and the family throughout the recovery process should not be underestimated.

We are asking the Board to proclaim that September 2006 is "Alcohol and Drug Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery Month" in Placer County and to demonstrate continued support and commitment to alcohol and drug prevention, treatment and recovery, and to support our local Recovery Happens event on September 30, 2006.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact as a result of this action.

**Before the Board of Supervisors
County of Placer, State of California**

In the matter of:

Resolution No: _____

**Proclaim September 2006 as National Alcohol & Drug
Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery Month in Placer
County**

Ord. No.: _____

First Reading: _____

The following Resolution was duly passed by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Placer at a regular meeting held **September 12, 2006**, by the following vote on roll call:

Ayes:

Noes:

Absent:

Signed and approved by me after its passage.

Chairman, Board of Supervisors

Attest: _____
Clerk of said Board

WHEREAS, alcoholism and drug dependency are chronic disorders with genetic, psychosocial, and environmental factors influencing their development and manifestations; and

WHEREAS, prevention efforts can be effective in reducing the psychosocial and environmental factors; and

WHEREAS, alcoholism and drug addiction can and do affect all people and families in our communities; and

WHEREAS, alcohol and drugs are the third leading cause of death in the nation; and

WHEREAS, untreated alcoholism and drug addiction cost the State's workplaces billions of dollars in lost productivity, absenteeism, and accidents every year; and

WHEREAS, untreated addiction contributes to unwanted pregnancy, school dropouts, suicide, crime, juvenile delinquency, dysfunctional families, poverty, joblessness, homelessness, ill health, mental illness, HIV infection, hepatitis, and other deadly infectious diseases; and

WHEREAS, successful treatment and recovery programs have been demonstrated to reduce unnecessary State health care costs, reduce costs of lost productivity and increase State productivity by getting more workers into recovery, reduce the number of people in jail and prisons, reduce street and gang violence, reduce school dropout rates, reduce the cost of crime and the rate of recidivism, reduce the burden on law enforcement officials, reduce the total financial drain on our economy, and improve the quality of life for individuals and for society as a whole; and

WHEREAS, hundreds of thousands of individuals are living sober, productive lives and paying taxes in this State and our community as a result of prevention, treatment, or recovery services;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Placer, State of California hereby adopts this resolution and proclaims the month of September 2006 as Alcohol Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery Month, to demonstrate its continued support and commitment to alcohol and drug prevention, treatment and recovery, and encourage individuals and communities throughout the State to participate in its activities.

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