



REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

ITEM NO. 7

DATE OF MEETING: September 14, 2015

REQUESTED BY: Tammy Brunelle, Coastal Horizons Center, Inc.

SHORT TITLE: Proclamation of September as National Recovery Month.

BACKGROUND: Millions of lives in America have been transformed through recovery. Recovery Month is a national observance held every September to educate individuals that substance use treatment and mental health services can enable those with a mental and/or substance use disorder to live a healthy and rewarding life as well as an opportunity for everyone to celebrate these accomplishments.

The Cape Fear Recovery Month committee will host the annual Recovery Month Celebration on Sunday, September 20 from noon to 3 p.m. at the Wrightsville Beach Park. The theme for Recovery Month 2015 is "Join the Voices for Recovery: Visible, Vocal, Valuable!" This year's theme highlights the value of peer support in educating, mentoring, and helping others. Join us to celebrate healthy family fun!

With more than 600,000 people who self-identify as in recovery in North Carolina this annual celebration in our community allows us to recognize those who are in recovery, and share with others that recovery is possible. The event will feature local speakers discussing personal experiences with recovery from mental and substance use disorders, resources and provider booths, and live music. This is a community-wide event for a community-wide topic. And all are invited to celebrate and learn more about recovery.

SPECIFIC ACTION REQUESTED: To read and pass a proclamation in support of National Recovery Month.



SEPTEMBER IS NATIONAL RECOVERY MONTH

WHEREAS, behavioral health is an essential part of health and overall wellness; and

WHEREAS, prevention of mental and substance use disorders works, and effective treatment can help people recover; and

WHEREAS, more than 600,000 people are in recovery in North Carolina and 23,000,000 people are in recovery across the nation; and

WHEREAS, community-based services that respond to the needs of the individual and family are cost-effective and beneficial; and

WHEREAS, taxpayers save \$7 for every \$1 spent on treatment and \$5.60 for every \$1 spend on prevention, as a result of increased productivity, and reduced healthcare, criminal justice, and social service costs; and

WHEREAS, untreated mental and substance use disorders lead to more deaths than traffic accidents, HIV/AIDS, and breast cancer combined; and

WHEREAS, people in recovery achieve healthy lifestyles, both physically and emotionally; and

WHEREAS, recognition is due to those who have achieved long-term recovery, as is sharing with others how recovery can positively benefit one's life; and

WHEREAS, Recovery Month is observed every September nationwide by advocacy organizations to raise awareness and understanding of issues related to substance use and mental health disorders, and to eliminate the stigma associated with seeking substance use and mental health services; and

WHEREAS, all are invited to celebrate National Recovery Month with the Cape Fear Recovery Month Committee on Sunday, September 20 from noon to 4 p.m. at Elks Lodge in Wilmington with local speakers, food, live music and information booths to spread the positive message that prevention works, treatment is effective and people can and do recover.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED THAT, the Pender County Board of Commissioners do hereby proclaim September 2014, as **Recovery Month** in Pender County and call upon the citizens, government agencies, public and private institutions, businesses, and schools in Pender County to recommit to increasing awareness and understanding of mental and substance use disorders, and the need for accessible services for all people.

Adopted this the 14th day of September, 2015.

J. David Williams, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST:

Melissa Pedersen
Clerk to the Board