

September 10, 2026

BCC Agenda Item: _____

Board of County Commissioners
Clackamas County

Declaration of September 2026 as Recovery Month

Previous Board Action/Review: No Previous Board Action
Performance Clackamas: Healthy People

Counsel Review: N/A
Contact Person: Mary Rumbaugh

Procurement Review: N/A
Contact Phone: 503-406-7005

Executive Summary: National Recovery Month is observed every September to recognize the strength and resilience of people in recovery, celebrate the gains made by those in recovery from substance use disorders, promote evidence-based treatment and recovery practices, and honor the providers, peers, families, and community partners who make recovery possible.

The substance use crisis has created tremendous loss across the country in terms of lives lost, individuals and families impacted, and increased strain on public services. According to the CDC, 107,941 people died from a drug overdose in the U.S. in 2022. Since that time, drug overdose deaths have declined both nationally and locally thanks to a combination of factors including but not limited to changes in the drug supply, expanded overdose prevention efforts, addiction care, and peer recovery supports. We've made progress but too many lives continue to be lost due to drug overdose. Clackamas County will continue to prioritize and sustain this progress to support community members.

Thanks to Clackamas County's recovery-oriented system of care framework (ROSC), we see continued investments in critical recovery services including housing, employment, treatment, and peer support. The ROSC framework supports a network of community-based services and supports that work together to address both substance use and mental health challenges, with the goal of helping people achieve and maintain long-term recovery.

Through the Clackamas Community Alliance (CCA), Clackamas County staff work alongside community organizations, treatment providers, people with lived experience and service providers who come together to improve the health of our communities by reducing preventable harms and death from substance use through education, outreach, and meaningful engagement. Last year, the Public Health Division distributed over 6,500 naloxone kits to community organizations serving people at-risk of overdose, and through collaborative CCA efforts, quarterly naloxone trainings were delivered to over 100 community residents and organizations.

Recovery Month affirms that recovery is possible when people have access to treatment, support, resources, and community conditions that help them heal and thrive. This month, we remind our communities that behavioral health is essential, treatment is effective, and recovery is possible.

Healthy Families. Strong Communities.

RECOMMENDATION: Staff respectfully request that the Board of County Commissioners declare September 2026 as Recovery Month and authorize Chair Roberts or his designee to sign on behalf of Clackamas County.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Rumbaugh".

Mary Rumbaugh
Director, Health, Housing & Human Services

September 2026 Recovery Month Proclamation

WHEREAS, substance use disorders and mental health conditions affect individuals, families, and communities across our nation, and recovery is possible through prevention, treatment, support, and sustained community involvement; and

WHEREAS, millions of Americans are living healthy and productive lives in recovery, demonstrating that recovery from substance use and mental health conditions is real and achievable; and

WHEREAS, recovery support services, healthcare professionals, peer specialists, family members, faith communities, employers, and community organizations play an essential role in helping individuals achieve and maintain recovery; and

WHEREAS, increasing awareness and reducing stigma surrounding substance use and mental health conditions encourages individuals to seek help and supports long-term recovery outcomes; and

WHEREAS, communities benefit when individuals in recovery have opportunities for stable housing, meaningful employment, education, healthcare, and social support; and

WHEREAS, Recovery Month is observed each September to celebrate the gains made by those in recovery, recognize the contributions of treatment and recovery service providers, and promote the message that recovery is possible for everyone;

NOW, THEREFORE as the Board of County Commissioners of Clackamas County we do hereby declare September 2026 Recovery Month. We encourage all residents to recognize the importance of prevention, treatment, recovery support services, and the strength and resilience of individuals and families affected by substance use and mental health conditions and further encourage citizens, organizations, healthcare providers, and community leaders to participate in activities that promote awareness, reduce stigma, and support recovery for all

DATED this _____ day of September, 2026

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Chair

Recording Secretary