

CITY OF BALTIMORE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BALTIMORE CITY CELEBRATES SUBSTANCE ABUSE *RECOVERY MONTH*

“Join the Voices for Recovery: Real People, Real Recovery,”

Baltimore, MD (September 4, 2008) – *Recovery Month* is a nationwide celebration of people in long-term recovery from substance use disorders and their families. Local treatment advocates have planned several events throughout the month of September to celebrate the efforts of these individuals:

- **September 4th**: 4:15pm Kick-off Press Conference at Gaudenzia Weinberg Treatment Center (3643 Woodland Avenue).
- **September 17th**: Local treatment agencies will celebrate the valuable work of their providers on citywide *Recovery Staff Appreciation Day*.
- **September 27th**: Baltimore residents will show their support for substance abuse treatment in the **2nd Annual Recovery Walk and Rally**, from Park Heights to Druid Park.

Throughout the month, local drug treatment providers will open their doors to the community, so that area residents can see how recovery happens. For the more than 22 million people who suffer from substance use disorders, asking for help and finding treatment is essential to getting back to a healthy, fulfilling life through recovery. With the theme *“Join the Voices for Recovery: Real People, Real Recovery,”* this year’s *National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month* will celebrate those in recovery and the treatment and support providers who have helped them along the way.

“Individuals in recovery from drug addiction are making Baltimore healthier and safer,” said Mayor Sheila Dixon. “I thank them, their families, their friends, and their treatment teams for working every day against drug addiction.”

“Less addiction means less HIV, crime, family trauma, and community disintegration,” said Dr. Joshua M. Sharfstein, Commissioner of Health. “We all benefit from recovery.”

About *Recovery Month*

During *Recovery Month* each September, communities across the country join together to help people recognize that substance use disorders are treatable diseases. Participating in treatment and recovery programs for substance use disorders is as effective as receiving treatment for other chronic conditions – yet according to the 2006 *National Survey on Drug Use and Health: National Findings*, nearly 21.1 million people needed but did not receive treatment at a specialty facility in the past year in 2006. One year after treatment, people report a significant reduction in their alcohol and drug use, increases in employment and income, and decreases in homelessness.

Throughout September, events nationwide encourage communities, civic leaders, employers, treatment and prevention organizations, faith-based organizations, and the recovery community to address the continued need for treatment, overcome the barriers that prevent people from seeking help, and ensure access to local treatment facilities.

Recovery Month is overseen by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

For a schedule of treatment provider open houses, see www.bsasinc.org or www.baltimorehealth.org.