

Proclamation



Bob Buckhorn, Mayor

WHEREAS, behavioral health is an essential part of health and one's overall wellness, and prevention works, treatment is effective, and people can and do recover from substance use and mental disorders; and

WHEREAS, all people have the fundamental and inherent value to be accepted and treated with respect, human dignity and worth, and should have access to fully participate in community life that includes economic advancement and prosperity, fair and decent housing, quality education, positive opportunities to benefit from and contribute to material, cultural, and social progress; and

WHEREAS, it is critical to educate our policymakers, friends and family members, health care providers, and businesses that substance use and mental disorders are treatable, and that people should seek assistance for these conditions with the same urgency as they would for any other health condition, and by treating substance use and mental disorders like other chronic diseases, we can improve the quality of life for the entire community; and

WHEREAS, all Americans have the opportunity to access provisions within the Affordable Care Act and Mental Health Parity and Addictions Equity Action (MHPAEA), aimed to improve physical and emotional health while ensuring people will receive the care they need at a reasonable cost; and

WHEREAS, substance use and mental disorders are serious public health problems, and according to the *2009 National Survey on Drug Use and Health*, 4.3 million people received treatment for a substance use disorder and 30.2 million for a mental health problem in 2009, and it is imperative that we continue to reach the millions of people currently needing help; and

WHEREAS, to help more people achieve long-term recovery and promote the positive benefits recovery brings to the nation's overall well-being, the City of Tampa joins the United States Department of Health and Human Services, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy, and BayCare Behavioral Health in support of National Recovery Month, and celebrates the successes of those who have reclaimed their lives, and recognizes Federal, State and local government entities, as well as non-profit organizations and associations that are affiliated with the Recovery Month Planning Partner's group for their efforts.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bob Buckhorn, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim September, 2011 as

"NATIONAL RECOVERY MONTH" Prevention Works, Treatment is Effective, People Recover

in the City of Tampa, Florida, and urge all citizens to observe this month with appropriate programs and activities that support this year's theme, **"Join the Voices for Recovery: Recovery Benefits Everyone."**

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 1st day of September, 2011.



Bob Buckhorn

Mayor

