



The City of Mercer Island, Washington

Proclamation

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

WHEREAS, individuals should have access to fully participate in community life including 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 any other health condition; and

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

WHEREAS, substance use and mental disorders are serious public health problems. In 2009, 4.3 million people received treatment for a substance use disorder and 30.2 million people for a mental health problem, we must continue to reach the millions more who need help; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jim Pearman, Mayor of the City of Mercer Island, Washington, do hereby proclaim the month of September 2011 as,

NATIONAL RECOVERY MONTH: PREVENTION WORKS, TREATMENT IS EFFECTIVE, PEOPLE RECOVER

in Mercer Island and call upon our citizens to observe this month with appropriate programs and activities to help more people achieve long-term recovery, and learn how recovery positively benefits the Nation's overall well-being.

Signed this 6th day of September, 2011


Jim Pearman, Mayor