



# State of New York

## Executive Chamber

### Proclamation

Whereas, addiction is a medical condition that should be treated like any other illness, and people should seek assistance with the same urgency as they would any other health condition; and

Whereas, prevention, treatment, and recovery are the primary components for addressing substance abuse disorders in our society, and the benefits are significant and valuable to individuals, families, and the community at large; and

Whereas, individuals begin their journey of recovery with multiple pathways including; treatment, faith-based resources, criminal justice interventions, and support from individuals, family, mutual assistance groups and recovery community centers; and

Whereas, recovery is a lifelong process of improved health and wellness and is an intensely personal and unique experience that goes beyond abstinence to include a full re-engagement based on hope, resilience, health and wellness, and reintegration with family friends and community, and people in recovery achieve healthy lifestyles, both physically and emotionally, and contribute in positive ways to their communities; and

Whereas, September 2014 is the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual National and New York Recovery Month, and the theme is “*Join the Voices for Recovery: Speak Up, Reach Out*” which encourages people to openly discuss mental health and substance use disorders and the reality of recovery; and

Whereas, Recovery Month promotes the societal benefits of prevention, treatment, and recovery for mental and substance use disorders and spreads the positive message that behavioral health is essential to overall health, that prevention works, that treatment is effective, and that people can and do recover; alumni and other peers from across New York State will plan and participate in Recovery Month events which reflect the significance of recovery in their lives; and

Whereas, the New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS) continues the “Your Story Matters” campaign which highlights personal stories of recovery by individuals who wish to share their experience at [www.iamrecovery.com](http://www.iamrecovery.com); sharing the stories of dedication to breaking the cycle of addiction can instill hope in those who continue to suffer and recognize those who are champions of lifelong recovery; and

Whereas, OASAS is partnering with national, state, and local organizations to raise awareness of the chronic disease of addiction, and is also supporting the 11th Annual New York State Recovery Fine Arts Festival, and Addictions Professionals Day; all people in the Empire State are encouraged to become involved in the New York State Recovery Movement and help others recognize that addiction can be overcome;

Now, Therefore, I, Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby recognize September 2014 as

## RECOVERY MONTH

in the Empire State.



Given under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State  
at the Capitol in the City of Albany this twenty-sixth  
day of August in the year two thousand fourteen.

Governor

Secretary to the Governor