FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 31, 2017

Wolf Administration Invites Pennsylvanians to Submit Recovery Stories and Attend Sept. 6 National Recovery Month Kick-Off

Harrisburg, PA – September is National Recovery Month and Pennsylvanians are invited to participate in the statewide kick-off of the celebration on Wednesday, Sept. 6, at 10 a.m. at the Capitol Rotunda, 501 N. 3rd St., Harrisburg.

“National Recovery Month is the time to promote the message: treatment works and recovery is possible,” said Jennifer Smith, acting secretary of the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs. “Many of those who suffer from addiction now live in long-term recovery. They want to share the good news that recovery is possible with those who may be struggling.”

All are invited to attend this free event and to check for other National Recovery Month local events in their communities.

The 2017 theme for National Recovery Month is Join the Voices for Recovery: Strengthen Families and Communities. Recovery month as noted by the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) is in its 17th year, with the goal of celebrating the accomplishments of people whose lives have been transformed through recovery.

The Harrisburg event includes speakers living in long-term recovery along with Sec. Smith, Acting Secretary of Health and Physician General Dr. Rachel Levine, and legislators. The event will be hosted by radio host and former DJ Gary Hendler, founder of Clean and Sober Media, Inc., and a member of the Pennsylvania Advisory Council on Drug and Alcohol Abuse.

The agenda includes:
- A picture station to take selfies, with props, in front of a recovery backdrop
- Stories from people in long-term recovery
- Entertainment by Seamus Kelleher, guitarist and humorist
- Resource tables with purple recovery wristbands with the 1-800-662-HELP 24/7 state hotline for help and treatment, and other information
- Food trucks from 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

People are encouraged to submit their personal recovery stories here or on the DDAP website, www.ddap.pa.gov. Photos or other images can be uploaded. Posted stories will not contain identifying information. These stories of recovery from drug and alcohol addictions may be included on the DDAP website and social media.
“We invite Pennsylvanians to send us their stories of recovery so we can celebrate all those living in long-term recovery,” said Smith. “Your story could include information about your treatment and recovery journey and advice that would be helpful to others.”

Recovery from SUDs is possible, said Smith, and the state offers help and support including:

- Reversing overdoses with naloxone to keep people alive,
- Providing a PA. Helpline, 1-800-662-HELP, where people can call toll-free, 24/7, to speak with a person to find a detox bed and treatment options, and,
- Assisting those in recovery with supports.

“At a time when Pennsylvania is losing 13 people each day to the opioid crisis, we want to spread the good news that people can get treatment and live in recovery,” said Smith.

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