

**NEWS from the North Dakota Department of Human Services  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Communities Help Raise Awareness about Alcohol and Drug Recovery**

*Bismarck, Hebron, Jamestown and New Salem events planned*

BISMARCK, N.D. – To help raise awareness about the importance of recovery, Gov. John Hoeven has proclaimed **September as Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month** in North Dakota.

“Recovery has positively transformed the lives of thousands of individuals and families in North Dakota,” said JoAnne Hoesel, director of the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services Division of the N.D. Department of Human Services. “We need to recognize these individual successes and educate others about options available.”

Several communities in North Dakota are spearheading **recovery events** to honor individuals living healthy and productive lives in long-term recovery, individuals currently in treatment, as well as those who provide recovery services.

The Region VII Safe and Drug Free Communities Coalition will host a recovery walk on **Tues., Sept. 7, 2010, at 6 p.m.** on the **State Capitol** mall in Bismarck. The event will feature inspirational speakers, followed by a walk down Fifth Street to the Best Western Ramkota Hotel where there will be live music and pizza. Along the trek, walkers will carry signs with names of loved ones who benefited from treatment and sobriety.

*The Fire* from New Song Church in Bismarck will lead two recovery events on **Wed., Sept. 8, 2010, at 7 p.m.** at the **New Salem City Auditorium**, and **Thurs., Sept. 9 at 7 p.m. (MT)** at the **Hebron School gym**. Both events will feature live bands and a positive faith-based message about the dangers of substance abuse.

The North Dakota Addiction Counselors Association will hold a recovery walk on **Wed., Sept. 15 at 6 p.m.** at the **Jamestown Reservoir**. The gathering will include a picnic, guest speakers, and entertainment.

The recovery events in North Dakota are being held in conjunction with a national initiative to educate the public that addiction is a treatable disease, to reduce stigma, and to celebrate people in recovery. Organizations applied for funding from the department for each event.

The 2010 Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month proclamation can be viewed online at <http://www.nd.gov/dhs/info/pubs/docs/mhsa/2010-proclamation-recovery-month.pdf>.

To locate a public or private licensed substance abuse treatment program in North Dakota, log on to <http://dasis3.samhsa.gov/>. For more information on the department’s substance abuse prevention program go to <http://www.nd.gov/dhs/services/mentalhealth/prevention/index.html>.

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