

**RESOLUTION FOR SEPTEMBER 2026
RECOVERY AWARENESS MONTH**

WHEREAS, since 1989, September has been recognized as National Recovery Month, in support of individuals and families living with and impacted by substance use disorders, as well as the dedicated recovery communities and service providers who support their healing and long-term recovery; and

WHEREAS, the County affirms its commitment to reducing stigma, expanding access to treatment, and supporting programs that empower individuals and families on their recovery journey; and

WHEREAS, 2024 national estimates show that about one in six people are estimated to have had a substance use disorder in the past year; and

WHEREAS, at its peak in 2021, the number of deaths related to substance use in Orange County increased by 143% from 2010; and

WHEREAS, preliminary findings for 2025 show drug and alcohol deaths have decreased by 35% since its peak in 2021 ; and

WHEREAS, opioid-related deaths, particularly those involving fentanyl, also peaked in 2021, reaching 747, and has steadily declined annually and preliminarily in 2025 (304), though these totals remain higher than levels prior to 2020; and

WHEREAS, the impact of substance use is evident in our communities, and preventing these tragedies and providing effective treatment assists individuals in achieving healthier lives, both physically and emotionally; and

WHEREAS, National Recovery Month raises awareness about the efficacy of treatment and recovery services, helps people recognize the signs of substance use disorders, encourages those in need to seek support, and works to break the stigma surrounding these conditions; and

WHEREAS, National Recovery Month underscores the importance of compassion, understanding, and caring environments that strengthen our communities, and reinforces individuals in recovery, and those who support them, that no one walks their path alone; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Orange County Board of Supervisors hereby recognizes September as Recovery Month in our County and encourages residents, organizations, and community partners to join in promoting awareness, fostering hope, and supporting recovery-focused services.

Sources:

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, 2024 Companion Infographic Report
California Comprehensive Death File, CA Department of Public Health; data confirmed 7/17/2026