

“Rally for Recovery’ slated for Sept. 11”

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‘Rally for Recovery’ slated for Sept. 11

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PROVIDENCE – A broad group of public- and private-sector agencies is organizing “the largest recovery event in Rhode Island history,” a “Rally for Recovery” from 2 to 7 p.m. on Sept. 11 at Roger Williams Memorial National Park.

The event, to be held as part of the 21st annual National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month, aims to educate the public about substance abuse treatment and recovery resources.

It is sponsored by the R.I. Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals and the Rhode Island Recovery Month Coalition, including the A&E Network, Gateway Healthcare, Phoenix House, The Providence Center, Seven Hills Behavioral Health and the Homestead Group, with the support of the National Guard and Wounded Warrior Family Support.

Recovery Month events are held nationwide to honor people in recovery from substance use disorders, as well as those who provide treatment and recovery services, and to raise awareness of the need for access to treatment and for long-term recovery supports.

According to the 2008 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 23.1 million people in the United States had substance use disorders in the previous year, and an estimated 92,000 people in Rhode Island alone were affected by drug or alcohol dependence in 2007-08.

Nationwide, drug and alcohol abuse treatment and recovery resources fall far short of what is needed. Only an estimated 10 percent of Americans who need treatment actually get it, according to the 2008 National Survey on Drug Use and Health.

More than 50 organizations from across Rhode Island will set up information tables at the Sept. 11 event, and thousands of people are expected to attend, including recovering alcoholics and drug addicts, the mental health and developmental disabilities communities, behavioral health treatment providers, family members, friends and advocates of recovery.

One of the keynote speakers will be Gil Kerlikowske, director of the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy. Also scheduled to speak are Gov. Donald L. Carcieri, Lt. Gov Elizabeth H. Roberts, Warwick Mayor Scott Avedisian, and Cranston Mayor Alan Fung.