



STATE OF MARYLAND

DHMH

Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

Mental Hygiene Administration • Spring Grove Hospital Center • Dix Building  
55 Wade Avenue • Catonsville, Maryland 21228

Martin O'Malley, Governor – Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor – Joshua M. Sharfstein, M.D., Secretary

Brian M. Hepburn, M.D., Executive Director

August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2011

Dear Esteemed Colleague:

You and your staff are cordially invited to join us on September 8, 2011 for the annual Kick-off Festival celebrating the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administrations' (SAMHSA) 22st Annual National Recovery Month.

This year, in light of SAMHSA's expanded focus on recovery from behavioral health disorders, we will be partnering with the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Administration (ADAA) to celebrate SAMHSA's theme that "Recovery Benefits Everyone." The Kick-off Festival will be held on the grounds of ADDA at 55 Wade Avenue in Catonsville, Maryland. Festival activities will begin at 11:30 am, with a vendor fair, networking opportunities, and lunch.

The formal program will begin at 1:00 pm with welcoming comments from the ADAA and MHA administrations, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH), and from a national perspective by Ms. Linda Hutchings, Special Assistant to the Director, CSAT. The Secretary of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Joshua M. Sharfstein, M.D will present comments and the Governor's proclamation, designating September as "Recovery Month" in Maryland. We are excited to host Barbara Gordon, esteemed author of "I'm Dancing as Fast as I Can" as this year's featured keynote speaker. Community based recovery resource vendor exhibits, and other resources of use to the behavioral health community will be on display from 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Please let us know of your attendance plans for lunch and/or the formal program by Wednesday, August 31st, 2011 by registering at: [http://www.maryland-adaa.org/recoverymonth\\_onlineindex1.html](http://www.maryland-adaa.org/recoverymonth_onlineindex1.html)  
Questions regarding the Kick-off Festival can be directed to Laura Burns-Heffner, Event Chair at 410-402-8611.

We encourage you to log on to the SAMHSA [www.recoverymonth.gov](http://www.recoverymonth.gov) website for more information on National Recovery Month events, as well as to post your own events. Be sure to let us know what is being planned in your jurisdiction or at your program so that we can promote your events at the festival.

Sincerely,

Brian Hepburn, M.D.  
Executive Director