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CONTACT: Michele Denk
Executive Director, PACDAA
Direct: (717) 736-4704
mdenk@pacounties.org

Second Annual Recovery Advocacy Day a Success

HARRISBURG – In recognition of National Recovery Month, people in long-term recovery, family members of those impacted by addiction, and professionals that work in drug and alcohol treatment and recovery traveled to the State Capitol on September 20, 2016 for Recovery Advocacy Day.

“The goal for today is simple, show that recovery is possible and reduce stigma around the disease of addiction,” stated Mike Krafick, Certified Recovery Specialist supervisor, Armstrong-Indiana-Clarion Drug and Alcohol Commission. “The whole idea is to gather Pennsylvania’s recovery community together and let their voice be heard.”

More than 200 people spent the day meeting with state lawmakers to share personal stories and to convey a message of hope along with the fact that people can and do get better. In addition, they thanked lawmakers for their continued efforts and support. Exhibitors, representing a variety of recovery organizations, assisted in raising awareness by providing information on recovery to the public.

The day concluded with a media event as Lieutenant Governor Mike Stack opened this event by sharing remarks. Representative Thomas Murt announced a resolution that recognized the month of September as “National Recovery Month” in Pennsylvania, with additional commentary from Representative Gene DiGirolamo, Representative Karen Boback, Representative Brandon Neuman and Representative Doyle Heffley. Other speakers included Bill Stauffer, executive director, Pro-A, Cheryl Dondero, director, Dauphin County Drug and Alcohol Services, and Jason Snyder, press secretary, Pennsylvania Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs. The event was emceed by Judy Rosser, chairperson, PACDAA and executive director, Blair Drug and Alcohol Partnerships.

Organizers already are looking forward to next year. “It is important that the momentum we’ve established at this event is carried over to tomorrow, and the next day, week, and year,” said Ashley Potts, supervisor, Southwestern Pennsylvania Human Services. “Last year, we had close to 100 people; this year more than 200 came out. I am confident that next year will be bigger and better.”

Recovery Advocacy Day aims to raise awareness of substance use disorders, celebrates individuals in long-term recovery, and acknowledges the work of prevention, treatment, and recovery support services.

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