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## **Delaware County Declares September as National Recovery Month**

Delaware County Council joined members of the Office of Behavioral Health/Division of Drug and Alcohol, the Delaware County Heroin Task Force, MVP Recovery, Myra's Place and PRO-ACT to declare September as National Recovery Month during its council meeting on Sept 12.

National Recovery Month is a time to celebrate the people who are living healthy and productive lives in recovery, and a time to recognize the dedicated people who work to make recovery possible. This year's theme for National Recovery Month is "Join the Voices for Recovery: Invest in Health, Home, Purpose, and Community." It focuses on how integrated care, a strong community, sense of purpose, and leadership contributes to effective treatments that sustain recovery.

While Delaware County's Department of Human Services, the Delaware County Heroin Task Force and partners in the community work year-round to combat addiction, September is an opportunity to spotlight the programs that offer treatment and recovery and the success stories that hopefully spark inspiration for those struggling.

"Delaware County Council has had the privilege of meeting with and working with members MVP Recovery, Myra's Place and PRO-ACT, three private organizations which are dedicated to the long-term recovery of our community," said Councilman Mike Culp.

MVP, founded by lifelong Delaware County resident Brian Corson, is an intense and structured 3 phase recovery program which allows members to live a responsible, independent and purpose driven life. Since it opened 4 years ago, MVP has had 72 graduates and 88% have remained sober.

Myra's Place was founded by Barri Pepe, a social worker who graduated from Widener University. Pepe has worked in the drug and alcohol for over 15 years and in August 2011 she established Myra's Place, the first recovery house for women in Delaware County. Pepe named the program after Myra Manley, a friend of hers who disappeared in 1983. That tragedy inspired her to create a recovery home for women where they can live independently while pursuing their goals of recovery, employment and education.

The Pennsylvania Recovery Organization – Achieving Community Together (PRO-ACT) created in 1997 is a grassroots advocacy and recovery support initiative. Its members advocate for quality treatment and recovery support of individuals and families suffering from substance use disorder. PRO-ACT has also created a peer-based recovery support services for individuals and families. In recognition of National Recovery Month, PRO-ACT will hold its annual *Recovery Walks!* on September 22 to raise awareness of drug and alcohol addiction as a public health concern.

The Delaware County Office of Behavioral Health, Division of Drug and Alcohol works tirelessly all year round to make sure all individuals can get connected to treatment. Delaware County’s Single County Authority (SCA) is an administrative office which oversees the delivery of treatment and prevention services in the county. Services include detox, inpatient rehab, hospitalization, halfway housing, recovery housing, methadone maintenance, outpatient levels of care, and case management services. The office also offers a school based program to help identify students struggling with behavioral barriers to education, and offers free prevention services to residents on alcohol, tobacco and other substance abuse.

The Delaware County Heroin Task Force was formed in 2012 and for the past 6 years has been focused on: prevention and education, treatment, and recovery. The Task Force members represent many areas of expertise from law enforcement and emergency medical personnel to behavioral health and educators. They meet throughout the year to strategize how to attack the heroin epidemic from all sides, on the streets, in schools, through law enforcement, through treatment programs and through community outreach.

“On behalf of Council and all of the county, we thank each of those with us today for the work you do each and every day to help our community overcome addiction and live healthy and full lives in recovery,” said Culp.

Information on the offices and organizations listed above can be found here:

**The Delaware County Office of Behavioral Health, Division of Drug and Alcohol:**  
[www.delcohsa.org/drugalcohol.html](http://www.delcohsa.org/drugalcohol.html)

**The Delaware County Heroin Task Force:**  
[www.co.delaware.pa.us/heroin](http://www.co.delaware.pa.us/heroin)

**MVP Recovery:**  
[www.mvprecoverynow.com](http://www.mvprecoverynow.com)

**Myra’s Place:**  
[www.myrasplace.org](http://www.myrasplace.org)

**PRO-ACT:**  
[www.councilsepa.org/programs/pro-act](http://www.councilsepa.org/programs/pro-act)