

# ***Global Peer Support Celebration Day***

## **Proclamation**

*October 19, 2023*

**Whereas:** Global Peer Supporter Celebration Day (GPSCD) occurs annually on the third Thursday in October. Peer workers (also known as peer providers and Peer Support Specialists) from across the globe reflect on and celebrate the important role he/she/they play in helping those with mental health, addiction, and or traumatic challenges move along the continuum of recovery and inclusion into communities of his/her/their choosing; and

**Whereas:** Peer Supporters are trained providers who use his/her/their lived experience to encourage, engage with, and support others with mental health, addiction, and or trauma challenges, using the recovery model and the principals and values of peer support to provide hope, support, and be a role model of recovery; and

**Whereas:** The belief that recovery is possible for all who experience mental health, addiction, and or traumatic challenges is fundamental to the practice of peer support. Peer Supporters use the working definition of recovery, the Guiding Principles of Recovery, and Core Values to empower and assist their peers live a life of his or her or their choosing, improving the likelihood of long-term recovery; and

**Whereas:** Peer support is an emerging best-practice, has proven to be a cost-effective treatment for mental health, addiction, and traumatic challenges, reduces inpatient hospital days, recidivism rates, and increases a patient's (also referred to as consumer's) ability to access expensive and more restrictive community-based services; and

**Whereas:** This year's Global Peer Support Celebration Day goal is to increase public awareness of peer supporters, the services they provide (or do not provide), how they are impacting the lives of countless adults, children, adolescents, and families within the health and human services industry, and how they are providing a shining example of recovery in the places where these services are delivered.