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September 2, 2005

\*\*\* FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE \*\*\*

**Wyoming Celebrates Substance Abuse Recovery on Sept. 10**

CHEYENNE - The Wyoming Department of Health's substance abuse division is hosting the annual "Wyoming's Voices for Recovery" celebration in Cheyenne on Sept. 10. This family-friendly event will celebrate and encourage recovery from substance abuse and promote awareness and prevention of substance abuse to all residents, including Wyoming's youth.

The day will kick-off with a walk/bike originating at Mylar Park (on Seminole Rd., off of Dell Range Blvd.). Registration will begin at 7:30 a.m, and light breakfast food will be offered. The walk/bike begins at 8 a.m. with the route leading to Holliday Park where the rest of the celebration will take place from 9:30 a.m. until 3 p.m.

At Holliday Park, family-friendly games, art displays, and information will be offered by a number of local service agencies and center stage will feature entertainment and music.

Scheduled guest speakers include Wyoming Department of Health Director, Dr. Brent Sherard, Cheyenne Mayor Jack Spiker, and Woody Wolf, the assistant director with White Bison Treatment Center, who will speak on the "Wellbriety movement". Persons in recovery will share their share their stories, too.

Local entertainment includes performances by "Strolling Strings," "Las Mariposas" dance group, "Hands in Harmony," "Color's in Unity" dance group, the "Black, White, Rhythm and Blues Band," a martial arts demonstration by "Wyoming Chapter of Modern Arnis," plus a Healing Ceremony with the 100 Eagle Feather Hoop performed by "White Bison, Inc." including the Wind River Singers and drums from the Wind River Indian Reservation.

Everyone is invited to attend this celebration. There will be free food, music and family fun. Food sponsors include Subway, Dairy Queen, Taco Johns, and Teton Distributing. Free transportation will be provided throughout the day for participants needing to get back to their vehicles at Mylar Park.

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Note to Editors: Attached you will find the full schedule, plus a partial list of participants. Please contact Laura Bennett at the number below for assistance to arrange interviews prior to the event.

**"Voices of Recovery" Schedule of Events on Sept. 10**

Mylar Park Walk/Bike - 7:30 a.m.

7:30 a.m. - Registration begins. A light breakfast (juice, yogurt, fruit) will be offered.

8:00 a.m. - Walk/Bike begins. The route goes along the Cheyenne Greenway north of the airport, south along Converse to Airport Parkway to Morrie and ends at Holliday Park. Transportation will be available to return participants from Holliday Park to Mylar Park throughout the day.

Holliday Park - 9:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

9:30 - Strolling Strings, East High/Black,

10 a.m. Welcome and Opening, Dr. Brent Sherard,

10:15 a.m. Las Mariposas, Dance Group  
10:45 - Cheyenne Mayor Jack Spiker Welcome  
Recovery Speaker  
11 a.m. Hands in Harmony.  
11:45 a.m. Martial Arts  
12:15 p.m. Woody Wolf, 100 Eagle Feather Hoop and Healing Ceremony  
1 p.m. - Color's in Unity Dance Group  
1:30 - Recovery Speaker  
1:45 - 3:30 p.m. Black, White, Rhythm and Blues Band

Children's activities include a jumping castle and maze. Informational booths will also have activities and handouts.

In case of inclement weather, the event will be moved to the Cheyenne YMCA.

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**What is National Recovery Month?**

National Alcohol & Drug Addiction Recovery Month, celebrating 16 years of observance in 2005, is an initiative of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's Center for Substance Abuse Treatment.

The Recovery Month observance highlights the societal benefits of substance abuse treatment, lauds the contributions of treatment providers and promotes the message that recovery from substance abuse in all its forms is possible. The observance also encourages citizens to take action to help expand and improve the availability of effective substance abuse treatment for those in need.

Substance abuse treatment providers have made significant accomplishments, having transformed the lives of untold thousands of Americans. These successes often go unnoticed by the broader population; therefore, Recovery Month provides a vehicle to celebrate these successes.

Recovery Month also serves to educate the public on substance abuse as a national health crisis that addiction is a treatable disease, and that recovery is possible. Educating the public reduces the stigma associated with addiction and treatment. Accurate knowledge of the disease helps people to understand the importance of supporting treatment programs, those who work within the treatment field, and those in need of treatment.

For more information about National Recovery Month, visit <http://www.recoverymonth.gov>

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For more information, please contact:

Laura Bennett, Women's Treatment Coordinator and "Wyoming's Voices of Recovery" Event Coordinator, Wyoming Department of Health Substance Abuse Division, (307) 777-3364.

Ross Doman, Public Information Officer, Wyoming Department of Health, (307) 777-6420.