

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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September is National Recovery Month

Sept 7, 2011 – National Recovery Month is an annual observance celebrated each September to highlight the benefits of treatment and recovery for not only the individual, but for their family, friends, workplace, and society as a whole. By educating the public that prevention works, treatment is effective, and people can and do recover from these conditions, discrimination associated with substance use disorders and treatment services can be eliminated.



The Asian Health Coalition (AHC) and its partners have been leading the Asian American Substance Abuse Intervention Initiative (AASAI) supported by the Illinois Department of Human Services Department of Alcohol & Substance Abuse since 2009. AASAI has worked extensively with the Korean and Chinese communities in Illinois to build a comprehensive, integrated public health model to deliver culturally competent substance abuse intervention and treatment services. Partnering agencies include the Chicago Community Counseling Center, Chinese American Service League, Hanul Family Alliance, Henry Booth House, and Korean American Community Services.

AHC aims to ensure that not being able to access the appropriate treatment services, or not knowing where to find these services, should no longer be a barrier to achieving recovery. Through AASAI, there are now 2 bilingual Korean and 2 bilingual Chinese speaking certified alcohol and drug abuse counselors available at the partnering agencies. Furthermore in the past year alone, 656 screenings have been conducted in the Korean and Chinese communities, resulting in 37 referrals made for substance abuse counseling and treatment services.

“More public awareness and education is needed in Asian American communities to increase access for those in need of essential substance use and mental health treatment and recovery support services, including behavioral health treatment” stated Edwin Chandrasekar, AHC Executive Director. “We hope that with increased access to treatment and recovery support services, families, friends, businesses, and health care providers, will reach out to those in need to assist them in finding appropriate treatment options”, he further added.

About AHC: Established in 1996, the Asian Health Coalition (AHC) is a 501(c)3 non-profit with a mission to improve the health and wellness of the Asian American community through advocacy, technical assistance, community-based education and research. To learn more, visit www.asianhealth.org.