

May 10, 2016

Kana Enomoto, M.A.  
Acting Administrator  
Substance Abuse and Mental Health  
Services Administration  
5600 Fishers Lane  
Rockville, MD 20857

Dear Acting Administrator Enomoto:

On behalf of our 159,000 members, we are pleased to reiterate our strong support for National Recovery Month in September. This annual, nationwide observance is designed to promote the societal benefits of addiction treatment, laud the contributions of substance abuse treatment providers, and advance the message that recovery from alcohol and drug addiction is possible.

For twenty years, the ADA has helped state dental societies develop peer assistance programs to get impaired dentists into treatment before they have an alcohol- or drug-related incident. These programs leverage the confidentiality, trust, and understanding of a tightly knit profession to support dentists throughout their recovery, and help them establish some measure of long-term stability in their lives.

Recovery Month is an opportunity to build stronger ties between state and local dental societies and the recovery community at large. These relationships can help bolster the profession's peer assistance programs, which are a pathway to recovery.

Recovery Month is also an opportunity to encourage dentists revisit their knowledge about how to safely prescribe opioid pain medication in the context of modern-day drug-seeking behavior. This includes learning how to spot signs that a patient may be seeking opioid pain medications for non-medical purposes, and how to briefly counsel and refer those patients for appropriate substance abuse treatment.

The ADA has proudly supported the National Recovery Month since 2004, and we are pleased (once again) to offer our enthusiastic support. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Robert J. Burns at 202-789-5176 or [burnsr@ada.org](mailto:burnsr@ada.org). Information is also available at [ADA.org/opioids](http://ADA.org/opioids).

Sincerely,

/s/

Carol Gomez Summerhays, D.D.S.  
President

/s/

Kathleen T. O'Loughlin, D.M.D., M.P.H.  
Executive Director

CGS:KTO:rjb