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PRESS RELEASE

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LACDMH Officially Releases its All-New Series, *Profiles of Hope*, Featuring Six Celebrities and Well-Known Personalities

The original series has been officially released for viewing and wide distribution.

Los Angeles, CA – The brand-new *Profiles of Hope*, created and produced as an original series by the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (LACDMH), is now available for viewing and will be used as a teaching tool to motivate audiences and erase stigma. The series made its broadcast debut in early May on PBS/KLCS-TV in Los Angeles.

Funded by the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA), *Profiles of Hope* is a set of 10-minute inspirational stories that spotlights high-profile individuals who candidly share how they overcame stigma and various obstacles to live successful and productive lives.

Featured are:

- Emmy Award-winning actor **Maurice Benard** who plays Sonny Corinthos on the ABC soap opera *General Hospital*.
- Psychiatrist **Clayton Chau, M.D., Ph.D.**, who co-hosts a weekly television show, *Viet View*, to bring awareness to mental health issues for the Vietnamese community.
- Actor/musician **Robert David Hall** who plays Dr. Albert Robbins on the CBS show *CSI: Las Vegas*.
- Emmy Award-winning actress/author **Mariette Hartley** who has starred on the stage, movies and in television shows for more than 40 years.
- Boxing champion **Mia St. John** who has won three World Boxing Council (WBC) titles.
- U.S. Vets president/CEO **Stephen Peck, M.S.W.**, son of actor Gregory Peck, who is a Vietnam veteran, leading the nation's largest non-profit dedicated to helping vets.

“These extraordinary individuals show us that their experiences with mental illness did not stop them from developing their gifts and talents, and from sharing these gifts with the world,” said Marvin J. Southard, D.S.W., Director of LACDMH. “Their stories are models for everyone facing challenges.”

(More)

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The Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health is the largest county-operated mental health department in the United States, directly operating 75 program sites and more than 100 co-located sites. Each year, it contracts with approximately 1,000 agencies and individual practitioners to provide a spectrum of mental health services to more than 250,000 residents of all ages. The Department's mission -- enriching lives through partnership to strengthen our community's capacity to support recovery and resiliency -- is accomplished by working with stakeholders and community partners to provide clinically competent, culturally sensitive and linguistically appropriate mental health services to clients in the least restrictive manner possible.

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