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PRESS RELEASE

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LACDMH Releases a Brand-New PSA to Promote Hope, Wellness & Recovery *Now available for broadcast distribution and online viewing, the PSA features well-known personalities from the Profiles of Hope series, sharing an anti-stigma message.*

Los Angeles, CA – The all-new public service announcement (PSA) stars the six celebrities and personalities featured in the 2011 *Profiles of Hope*, created and produced as an original series by the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (LACDMH). The PSA is now available for viewing on the LACDMH website (dmh.lacounty.gov), the LACDMH Public Information Office (PIO) Facebook and YouTube pages.

Funded by the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA), the 60-second PSA will be used as an awareness tool to motivate audiences and erase stigma. The message focuses on what the featured individuals have overcome and how they've continued to live successful and productive lives. Release of the PSA coincides with national and local recognition of May as Mental Health Awareness month.

"This PSA illustrates the living reality that full recovery from mental illness is more than a pipe dream. It is something to really hope for," said LACDMH Director, Marvin J. Southard, D.S.W.

Featured in the PSA are:

- Emmy Award-winning actor **Maurice Benard** from 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 in the Vietnamese community.
- Actor/musician **Robert David Hall** from the CBS drama *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.

(More)

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A DVD copy of the PSA is available upon request by contacting the LACDMH Public Information Office at 213-738-3700. The PSA, along with the 2011 *Profiles of Hope*, are available for viewing online at dmh.lacounty.gov, on [Facebook](#) and on [YouTube](#).

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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