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BALDWINS PART OF GROUP TO TACKLE ADDICTION RECOVERY REFORMS

Daniel, Alec and Beth Baldwin are part of a new organization fighting for addiction recovery reforms needed to remove access barriers to treatment and stem the tide of the national addiction epidemic

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Millville, NJ, Tuesday, January 31, 2017 – Recovery Reform NOW announced its launch today, as an organization committed to spearheading the removal of access barriers to addiction treatment. These reforms would include mandatory minimum inpatient coverage provided by insurance carriers; compliance and enforcement of federal Mental Health Parity Laws; criminal justice reform; and greater nationwide regulation of insurance carrier claw-backs, which impede facilities’ ability to treat.

The organization has already had meetings on Capitol Hill with Senator Cory Booker (D-NJ) and Congressman Donald Norcross (D-NJ), both of whom are committed to working with Recovery Reform NOW on necessary reforms.

Sadly, amid this epidemic, health insurance carriers continue to shorten benefit periods for those in need of treatment, and extremely limit detox approvals. Therefore, those seeking help at their greatest time of need are left by their insurance carriers, and families are left without hope that their loved-ones will ever get well.

The numbers of those with substance use disorder (SUD) are now estimated at over 25 million, with less than ten percent receiving treatment. Insurance coverage denials are contributing to the growing number of overdose deaths, which reached almost 50,000 in 2014.

“Every day, 136 people die from substance use disorder. We are losing a generation of people,” said Daniel Baldwin. The actor and producer is familiar with addiction and recovery, and is deeply committed to seeing reforms implemented. Daniel is speaking from experience and knows *“there is a direct link between long-term sobriety and length of stay.”* Daniel went through nine treatment centers before reaching sobriety, including many “30 day stay” facilities, and knows something much more is needed.

“Stopping the flow of opioids is a step in the right direction, and necessary. But, to get those with

substance use disorder well, they need treatment. The greatest barrier to treatment is the adversarial position the insurance carriers have taken. It is akin to them standing in opposition to people experiencing sobriety,” said Frank Jones, Founder of Recovery Reform NOW, and Partner at Millville, NJ-based Mints Insurance.

The question of whether addiction is a disease is no longer up for debate. The American Medical Association, American Psychiatric Association, and the World Health Organization all characterize addiction as a disease. This assertion, however, has not made its way to the insurance carriers, who apply coverage limitations to addiction and mental health modalities. The effect of this national epidemic has reached unprecedented levels, in every part of society.

Scott VanDerKarr, a former municipal court judge who was one of the first judges in Ohio to provide offenders with a second chance through his drug court, will serve as chief adviser on criminal justice reform for Recovery Reform NOW. *“I am glad to be part of an organization that will focus on equality for individuals with substance use disorder in the criminal justice system and the treatment/recovery system,”* said VanDerKarr. He resigned from the bench in January in order *“to go out and fight the epidemic and make a bigger impact.”*

In addition to the Baldwins, and organization’s founder, Frank Jones, there are many who will serve on the Board of Advisors. They are national leaders in addiction recovery, business, law, and entertainment, and will be announced over the coming weeks.

Jones’ passion on this issue is shared among the group assembled. *“It is our strong desire, and personal commitment, to see transformational, substantive reforms implemented, so those with substance use disorder (SUD) can experience the joy and freedom of sobriety, and the thrill of reconnecting with their family, friends and communities.”*

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About Recovery Reform NOW

Recovery Reform NOW is an organization dedicated to advocating and advancing policy reforms for the treatment of substance use disorder, from removing access barriers to the delivery of treatment, to stem the tide of the national addiction epidemic.

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