

## NCADD Applauds President Obama for Bringing Mental Illness and Addiction Out of the Shadows

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The **National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, Inc. (NCADD)** applauds **President Obama, Vice President Biden** and other leaders of the **National Conference on Mental Health** and supports the Administration's launch of a national conversation to increase understanding and awareness of mental health and substance abuse issues.

"NCADD applauds President Obama and Vice President Biden for leading on the effort to help bring the conversation about mental health and substance use to a national level and out of the shadows. Each year, millions of individuals and families are served by NCADD," stated Robert J. Lindsey, M.Ed., CEAP, NCADD President/CEO "and for them and those on the front line of service and action, elevating this national conversation is long overdue."

The National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, Inc. (NCADD) was founded in 1944 by Marty Mann, the first woman to achieve long term recovery in Alcoholics Anonymous (AA). For almost 70 years NCADD and our National Network of Affiliates have been dedicated to increasing public awareness, understanding and support for the disease of alcoholism and drug dependence by decreasing stigma and discrimination through sharing the freedom and joy of recovery.

In his remarks, President Obama stated, "The Main goal of this conference is not to start a conversation – so many of you have spent decades waging long and lonely battles to be heard. Instead, it's about elevating that conversation to a national level and bringing mental illness out of the shadows."

Greg Muth, NCADD Board Chair commented, "As leaders in the fight against stigma since 1944, NCADD is humbled, yet proud of the many millions of individuals and families living life in recovery through our collective work and elated to see substance abuse and mental health issues being highlighted at a White House conference. We stand with the President and other leaders in the field who have worked for decades to ensure people with alcohol, drug and mental health issues get the treatment and care they need."

"To continue this conversation across America, NCADD recently launched a new

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National Grassroots Network that will work collaboratively with local community leaders across American to bring greater awareness to **America's #1 Health Problem – Alcoholism and Drug Addiction**", stated John Magnuson, NCADD Vice President of Policy and Advocacy. "Plains and simple, people need access to treatment and NCADD will not rest until the Mental Health and Addiction Equity Act legislation has been fully implemented!"

The President ended his remarks by saying, "if you know somebody who is struggling, help them reach out. Remember the family members who shoulder their own burdens and need our support as well. And more than anything, let people who are suffering in silence know that recovery is possible. They're not alone. There's hope. There's possibility."

Greg Muth, "Marty Mann, NCADD's Founder, had it right from the start. Alcoholism is a disease. People who are addicted deserve our help. And the ultimate solutions are tied to greater public education on prevention, intervention, treatment and recovery efforts ---because they work! And society is the better for it!"

### **About the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, Inc. (NCADD):**

The National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, Inc. (NCADD) and its Affiliate Network is a voluntary health organization dedicated to fighting the Nation's #1 health problem – alcoholism, drug addiction and the devastating consequences of alcohol and other drugs on individuals, families and communities.

**NCADD – A Symbol of Help and Hope:** Last year alone, 730,900 people contacted NCADD and our National Network of Affiliates seeking help for themselves, a friend or family member. Since NCADD began in 1944, millions of individuals and family members have begun their recovery through NCADD.

### **The NCADD Vision:**

- To share the joy of recovery and knowledge.
- To break down barriers of ignorance and stigma.
- To encourage individuals, families, companies and communities to seek help!