



Depression and Bipolar
Support Alliance

Contact: Ellen Schantz, DBSA Communications Director
(312) 988-1162
eschantz@DBSAAlliance.org

Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance President Allen Doederlein Promotes Peer Support at White House series “Making Health Care Better”

CHICAGO, July 1, 2016—Allen Doederlein, president of the Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance (DBSA), addressed the value of peer support on June 7 at a summit on mental health that was part of the White House series “Making Health Care Better.” He was joined by DBSA trained peer specialist Susan Haggard. (Peer supporters are people living with mood disorders who support others with the same condition.) Other session speakers included leaders from federal agencies and prominent non-profit organizations who discussed the central challenges and responses to issues in mental health. The day-long event was [live streamed](#).

In conjunction with the summit, the White House Domestic Policy Council released a report on actions taken by the Administration to improve mental health research, access to care, and treatment <http://go.wh.gov/D7hYj9>. The VA also released an interagency fact sheet on progress in improving access to mental health care for veterans http://www.blogs.va.gov/VAntage/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/160606_MentalHealthSummaryofEfforts.pdf.

The purpose of the five-part, White House series “Making Health Care Better” is to highlight the significant progress made in improving health and the health system over the past seven years, as well as current activities and the work remaining. The first series event, held on April 7, was a discussion on diabetes.

The Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance (DBSA) is the leading peer-directed national organization focused on depression and bipolar disorder. Led by and created for individuals living with these conditions, DBSA provides hope, help, support, and education to improve the lives of people living with mood disorders by providing free, scientifically based tools and information focused on an integrated approach to wellness; supporting research; and working toward equitable treatment for people with mental health conditions. In 2015, DBSA programs and resources directly touched 3.4 million people.

###

