Addiction
communities take action

Dear AddictionAction House Party Host,

Thanks for hosting an AddictionAction house party! CADCA, Faces & Voices of Recovery and Join Together look forward to working with you to take advantage of HBO's ADDICTION to mobilize support in your community for new policies and attitudes about addiction prevention, treatment and recovery.

This House Party Tool Kit contains all the information you will need to make your event a success! Inside you will find:

- A sign up sheet for party attendees to receive email updates from AddictionAction partners:
- A sample agenda you can use as a guide for planning you party:
- A sample press release to use if you would like to let local media know about your party – inviting local TV or newspaper reporters to cover your event is a great way to magnify your efforts.
- A form for the Addiction Recovery Insurance Discrimination Registry. The last segment of the main ADDICTION documentary focuses powerfully on insurance discrimination.Use the registry to begin taking action in your community.

Last, don't forget to download our Viewers Guide, which contains talking points about the show and is very helpful for leading a discussion of ADDICTION at your party and issues related to treatment and recovery. Go to: www.AddictionAction.org/resources.

Have you sent your invitations yet? Invite your friends, neighbors, state and local legislators, and co-workers over to watch the show, discuss what's going on in your community and build on your advocacy to increase the opportunities for treatment and recovery in your town.

If you have additional questions, please email us at info@addictionaction.org.

We look forward to working with you over the coming years to make recovery a reality for even more Americans!

Sincerely,

The AddictionAction.org Outreach Partners
CADCA
Faces & Voices of Recovery
Join Together

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Sign Up for Email Updates!

AddictionAction.org is a partnership of CADCA, Faces & Voices of Recovery, and Join Together. Sign up to receive occasional email updates from us with ways you can continue to mobilize your community to advance prevention, treatment and recovery. **Please print clearly**.

First Name	Last Name	Email (print very clearly)	City	Zip

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ABOUT MEDIA ADVISORIES

A media advisory is an invitation for reporters to attend an upcoming event. It should be distributed to media outlets in your community like TV, radio, newspapers and magazines. Send it to them by e-mail and/or FAX a minimum of three days before your event is scheduled. You can ask that it be posted on what's called the "Day Book," where events that are happening on a particular day are listed. One important thing to remember is to follow up with a phone call.

SAMPLE HOUSE PARTY MEDIA ADVISORY

PEOPLE IN LONG-TERM RECOVERY FROM ADDICTION AND THEIR ALLIES IN **[CITY/TOWN]** COME TOGETHER TO BUILD SUPPORT FOR INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES SEEKING HELP TO RECOVER FROM ADDICTION

House Party to Watch and Discuss HBO's New Documentary
"ADDICTION"

WHAT: **[name of your organization/your name]** is hosting a house party to view and explore the issues raised in HBO's Addiction. Following the program, guests will discuss the obstacles to long-term recovery raised in the program such as the barriers individuals face getting insurance coverage for treatment and recovery **[or issue that you will be focusing on in your community.]**

The house party is part of a national event, with house parties scheduled in hundreds of cities across the country. Community advocates, parents, political leaders and concerned individuals are coming together at house parties, where they will gather, discuss solutions and how to implement them so that addiction and long-term recovery moves to the forefront in **[name of your community.]**

WHY: Millions of Americans are in long-term recovery from addiction to alcohol and other drugs, yet one in four Americans still has a family member who is struggling with addiction. Of these 22 million people who still need help, only nine percent are receiving the help they need to recover and get their lives back on track. We need to come together in our community to understand addiction and take action so that more of our friends and neighbors can get the help they need.

About HBO's ADDICTION project:
In partnership with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), and the National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA), HBO's ADDICTION project is an unprecedented multi-media campaign aimed at helping Americans understand addiction as a treatable brain disease, as well as highlighting effective new treatments.

House parties are happening across the country. To find out more, visit www.AddictionAction.org.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND: Parents, business owners, elected officials, family members of people still struggling with addiction, people in long-term recovery from addiction, teachers and law-enforcement officials.

WHEN: (DATE AND TIME)

WHERE: (ADDRESS)

PRESS CONTACT: To arrange pre- or post-event interviews with panelists and other spokespeople, please contact: **(Name, cell and e-mail)**

(THE DATE OF THE ADVISORY)

YOUR ORGANIZATION'S NAME, ADDRESS & PHONE NUMBER if this is not printed on organizational stationery

FACES & VOICES OF RECOVERY

ADDICTION RECOVERY INSURANCE DISCRIMINATION REGISTRY

State and federal policymakers are shining light on the fact that far too many Americans are not getting the help they need to achieve long-term recovery from addiction, even if they have private health insurance.

Faces & Voices of Recovery and allied organizations across the country are collecting the stories of individuals and families to document the discriminatory practices that are preventing people and their families from new lives in recovery.

We need your help to document your experiences and your story.

Please take a few minutes to fill out the information below. We are collecting stories to use in hearings, for media inquiries and other opportunities to raise the profile of discriminatory practices and the need for new policies that will get people the help they need, when they need it. **We will not use your story without your express permission.**

If you have or had insurance when you or your loved one needed and looked for help, tell us a little about your health insurance:

1. I/we had employer-provided group health insurance. **YES**_____ **NO**_____

2. Our insurance covered mental health and addiction. **YES**_____ **NO**_____

   If it covered mental health and addiction, do you have a copy of your insurance plan that describes the coverage? **YES**_____ **NO**_____

   If it covered mental health and addiction, do you have information on medical necessity terms or other conditions that limited access to your coverage? **YES**_____ **NO**_____

3. Have you ever been denied needed addiction treatment benefits? **YES**_____ **NO**_____

   Were you denied treatment outright? **YES**_____ **NO**_____

   Was treatment cut short or the type of treatment needed changed because of insurance limits? **YES**_____ **NO**_____

4. Did you ever request a copy of your health plan's medical necessity or other medical management critiera? **YES**_____ **NO**_____

   Did your health plan ever tell you that they don't give out their medical necessity or other medical management criteria? **YES**_____ **NO**_____

5. Our insurance benefits were delivered through a behavioral managed care carve out (you had a separate number on your insurance card to call if you wanted treatment services)

   YES_____ **NO**_____

   If yes, what is the company's name?_____

If you have or had insurance through an employer-provided group plan and didn't get the treatment you or your loved one needed because of high cost-sharing requirements in your plan, or if you experienced a financial hardship because of these restrictions, tell us about your experiences:

1. I/we were trying to get out-of-network benefits. **YES**_____ **NO**_____

2. There were in-network providers in my area**. YES**_____ **NO**_____

3. The participating providers in my network weren't qualified to provide treatment appropriate to me/my child's age group and/or health status. **YES**_____ **NO**_____

4. I/we were seeking residential treatment. **YES**_____ **NO**_____

5. I/we were looking for outpatient services. **YES**_____ **NO**_____

If you were looking for outpatient services, how much was the co-pay? $_____

Thanks!

For the five questions below, please take as much space as you need.

If you are writing by hand, please print clearly.

1. Please give us a detailed account of you or your family member's experiences seeking help for their addiction.

2. Please describe how your experiences with your insurance company and health plan affected you or your family member.

3. Please let us know how you think that the system should have worked.

4. Please give us a brief history of your or your family member's addiction and recovery.

5. **Is there anything else that you'd like to let us know about your experiences?**
:

Thank you very much for taking the time to enter your story into our ADDICTION RECOVERY INSURANCE DISCRIMINATION REGISTRY. It will make a difference in educating the public and policymakers about the tremendous need for insurance reform.

We would like to be able to contact you to follow up on the information that you've given us as part of our campaign to end insurance discrimination. We will not use your story without your express permission.

Your name (s): _____

Your address: _____

_____

Your email: _____

Your phone number: ( )_____(home) ( )_____(work) ( )_____(mobile)

PLEASE FAX TO 202.737.0695 OR YOU MAY FILL OUT AND EMAIL TO info@facesandvoicesofrecovery.org

Faces & Voices of Recovery

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