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Association for Behavioral
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Media Contact

Michael Timberlake 202-207-3637

mtimberlake@prismpublicaffairs.com

ABHW Mourns Loss of Robin Williams

Death of legendary actor another reminder we need to address the stigma surrounding mental illness and addiction

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Association for Behavioral Health and Wellness (ABHW) is saddened today to learn about the loss of comedic icon Robin Williams. Having lived with addiction and depression for decades, Williams’ tragic death is a sobering reminder of the powerful force of mental health and substance use disorders and the need for all of us to do more to help those living with these illnesses.

“As Peter Pan, our nanny, and everyone’s favorite genie, Mr. Williams’ genius helped us all escape our daily lives. It is truly heartbreaking to know his talents and gifts will never grace us again. He will be missed,” said Pamela Greenberg, President and CEO of ABHW. “Sadly, Mr. Williams was just one of the approximately 25 percent of Americans living with a mental health disorder and the 22 million of us living with a substance use disorder. His death is a reminder of the long fight ahead; we have to remove the stigma so that people feel comfortable talking about, and seeking treatment for, mental health and substance use disorders.

“I hope the outpouring of love and grief from people touched by Mr. Williams proves to others in pain that they are never alone in this fight.”

For information on how to help decrease stigma and encourage people to talk about mental illness and addiction go to www.stampoutstigma.com.

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The Association for Behavioral Health and Wellness (ABHW) is the national voice for specialty behavioral health and wellness companies. ABHW member companies provide specialty services to treat mental

health, substance use and other behaviors that impact health to the nearly 125 million people served by our members. For more information, please visit www.abhw.org

Stamp Out Stigma is an initiative spearheaded by the Association for Behavioral Health and Wellness (ABHW) to reduce the stigma surrounding mental illness and substance use disorders. This campaign challenges each of us to transform the dialogue on mental health and addiction from a whisper to a conversation. Take the pledge and learn more at www.stampoutstigma.com.