



Depression and Bipolar  
Support Alliance

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*## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE ##*

**Allen Doederlein Named President of the Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance**

(CHICAGO, June 30, 2011) — The Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance Board of Directors appointed Allen Doederlein as DBSA President. Allen had previously served as Interim Executive Director of External Affairs, sharing leadership duties with Cynthia Specht, who acted as Interim Executive Director of Operations. Specht will now assume the role of Executive Vice President.

Allen said of the appointment, “I am humbled and honored to accept the position of DBSA President, and I am grateful for the opportunity to be an eager student of and proud advocate for the 21 million Americans who, like me, live with a mood disorder. Together with the DBSA Board, staff, and volunteers, I pledge to listen to and articulate the voices of those of us who live with depression and bipolar disorder. Together, we will do the vital work of building coalitions, educating the public, and strengthening our ability to advocate—both personally and as an ever-stronger alliance.”

“The Board was unanimous in its decision to name Allen Doederlein DBSA President,” said DBSA Board chair Christy Beckmann. “His background as a nonprofit leader and fundraiser—coupled with his passion for helping people who, like him, live with a mood disorder—make him an ideal choice. Allen has been a vital player in stabilizing and focusing DBSA’s efforts over the past year. His ability to articulate why DBSA’s mission is so crucial, and his talent at building consensus, will serve DBSA well as we move forward.”

As President, Doederlein will focus on DBSA’s mission and vision, strategic alliances and partnerships, and generation of both contributed and earned revenues. Prior to being appointed Interim Executive Director, Allen was DBSA’s Vice President of Development. He has worked for numerous nonprofits in key leadership roles, most recently as Director of Development for Tony Award-winning Victory Gardens Theater, where he facilitated contributions to the annual fund and \$11.8-million capital campaign to renovate the historic Biograph Theater.

Allen is proud to be a member of the Advocacy Committee of the International Society of Bipolar Disorders. He also represents DBSA within the American Medical Association’s Major Depressive Disorder Committee and work groups, Mental Health Liaison Group, Depression is Real Coalition, and Coalition for Whole Health. Allen acted as judge and spokesperson for DBSA’s 2010 SPEAK And Be Heard...Living with Depression Campaign, a national education and anti-stigma campaign. Allen speaks regularly and has participated as a keynote and panelist for DBSA, DBSA-California, the University of California San Francisco Smoking Cessation Center, the Association of Fundraising Professionals, and others.

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As Executive Vice President, Specht will oversee operations and direct all public programming and educational initiatives nationwide. Specht will also facilitate creation and continuation of DBSA informational materials, including the websites DBSAAlliance.org, DBSAIianza.org, and FacingUs.org; printed brochures; and other publications. Specht brings to her role a diverse professional background of program development, marketing, and communications.

Doederlein and Specht comment on DBSA's mission and programming within this video, recently created as part of DBSA's 2011 FacingUs Wellness Campaign:

<http://www.youtube.com/dbsalliance#p/u/63/dWhyIYGSsrs>

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*The **Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance (DBSA)** is the leading patient-directed national organization focusing on depression and bipolar disorder. The organization fosters an environment of understanding about the impact and management of these life-threatening illnesses by providing up-to-date, scientifically-based tools and information. DBSA supports research to promote more timely diagnosis, develop more effective and tolerable treatments and discover a cure. The organization works to ensure that people living with mood disorders are treated equitably.*

*Assisted by a scientific advisory board comprised of the leading researchers and clinicians in the field of mood disorders, DBSA has 1,000 peer-run support groups across the country. Nearly five million people request and receive information and assistance each year. DBSA's mission is to improve the lives of people living with mood disorders.*

*For more information, please visit [www.DBSAAlliance.org](http://www.DBSAAlliance.org) or call (800) 826-3632.*

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