



CALIFORNIA NETWORK OF MENTAL HEALTH CLIENTS

2012 - 19th Street, Suite 100, Sacramento, California 95818

Voice: (916) 443-3232 ■ (800) 626-7447 ■ Fax: (916) 443-4089

E-mail: main@californiaclients.org ■ Web: www.californiaclients.org

News Alert – Messages from the Interim Executive Director

This message was posted to the Client Discussions e-list on October 4, 2009:

A Fresh Start

Greetings, CNMHC Members and friends,

At the September 13th Board meeting in Sacramento, I accepted an appointment from the Board as the Interim Executive Director of the California Network. I am writing to you, our members, to let you know that I humbly accept this post in service to our membership, with a focused intention on taking care of business to ensure the continuation, sustainability and future growth of our organization.

Initially, I will be focusing on working with the current staff, our bookkeeper, and the Board to get our finances in order and to hire back laid-off staff. We must act effectively during this transition to make sure we are fulfilling our current contracts while spending as little as possible. Please support me as your new Interim Executive Director to focus first on securing our continuation, and then on building toward our future dreams. We are working very hard to gather information and preparing to quickly and mindfully resume operations.

Communications with our membership are essential, and we will re-instate news alerts, update our website and look for new ways to share information with our members as a top priority. It is time to stop blaming one another for past mistakes; let's focus on what we want more of. Your voice still drives our organization. I would like to ask for members to please share with us and with each other: **What is most important to you about the Network? What works well? What is essential? What do we want more of?**

This kind of dialogue will keep us hopeful as we navigate the difficult decisions involved in strengthening our organization to fulfill its potential. Rise with me to do the best we can to live our values, treating one another with mutual respect and focusing on our collective strengths. We can take this crisis/opportunity to do something that is not entirely new: stand together, stand strong, and let our principles guide us. As Richard Ratlidge recently wrote:

"The time is now to put aside our individual differences and make a difference in the world."

Thank you for your active participation in and support of the California Network.

In service,

Sharon

Sharon Kuehn

Interim Executive Director

CA Network of Mental Health Clients