



August 30, 2013

The Honorable Mike Thompson  
US Congress, 5th District  
District Office  
1040 Main Street, Suite 101  
Napa, CA 94559

CHAIRPERSON  
John Ryan

EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
Jane Adcock

Dear Mr. Thompson:

The California Mental Health Planning Council (Council) is an advisory body under federal and state mandate to provide information and feedback on issues affecting mental health services for direct consumers and their caretakers. One form of information is the identification and sharing of successful practices with legislative leaders in order to inform their policy decisions.

- **Advocacy**
- **Evaluation**
- **Inclusion**

The Council wanted to share with you its recent recognition of a program in Napa County – People Empowering People (PEP) – as the first recipient of the Joe Mortz Memorial Spotlight on Excellence commendation. Joe Mortz was a long time California Mental Health Planning Council member who was a voice for accessible and improved mental health services in one's own community across the life span. He suggested this award in 2011 as a way for local, community-based programs to mentor each other and show that big successes could come out of small, creative efforts. He passed away in 2012 and we are very proud to honor his memory with this recognition.

This commendation is based on the program's commitment to recovery, wellness, resilience, consumer involvement, cost-effectiveness, and cultural competency as it works to improve the lives of the people it serves. While there are specific components that represent the ideals of recovery-oriented services, the overall theme is how well a program makes a person want to develop their own wellness and personal growth based on their strengths and particular set of needs. PEP has exemplified this particular aspect of wellness through empowerment and self-motivation to recover.

We hope you read the attached letter of congratulations in order to learn a little more about this wonderful program that has developed in your district!

Sincerely,

John Ryan, Chair  
California Mental Health Planning Council

Enc.

C: Susie Frank, Executive Director, People Empowering People