



November 1, 2012

To: Mental Health Services Colleagues
From: California Mental Health Planning Council
Subject: Nomination for the Joe Mortz Memorial Spotlight on Excellence Project

CHAIRPERSON
John Black

EXECUTIVE OFFICER
Jane Adcock

Dear Colleague:

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. To commemorate his advocacy, the California Mental Health Planning Council is initiating a "Joe Mortz Memorial Spotlight on Excellence" project in 2013 to highlight successful mental health programs in our communities. Successful means the program has found its niche in the community, is fully accessible, and its presence is secure. Successful also means that people who fully utilize the program have had measureable, positive outcomes as a result.

With all of the fiscal challenges facing provider programs and consumers the last few years, it can be hard to see the successes. This project relies on the nomination of the programs by those who would know best – direct consumers of the services, Mental Health Boards and Commissions, provider and consumer networks and organizations, and the programs themselves. We can learn from them. Please get the ball rolling by nominating a program in your county. We hope that highlighting the successes in your community will inspire and encourage others to replicate them. Nominees selected for recognition will receive a certificate, a congratulatory letter with a copy of the letter sent to their district legislators, and will be featured on the CMHPC website.

Ideally, the nominated program will be:

- Consumer and Family Member driven and/or staffed¹
- Culturally competent in both outreach and services/programming
- Recovery/Wellness/Resilience focused
- Active in community collaborations that connect participants to the community
- Helping people to live and maintain the most independent lifestyle possible

For 2013, we are particularly seeking out mental health programs that integrate a physical health aspect, such as smoking cessation, nutrition, or exercise as part of its wellness curriculum, or programs that have a strong employment training and placement component.

Please use the attached nomination form to recommend your local star for recognition. If you know of an outstanding program in your area but it is not health or employment oriented, we have an "other" category that can be used for your nomination. This letter and form are also posted on the CMHPC Website. We want to hear about it!

Thank you,

John Black, Chair
California Mental Health Planning Council

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¹ Client and family driven services use clients' and family members' input as the main factor for planning, policies, procedures, service delivery, evaluation and the definition and determination of outcomes