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March 1, 2013

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

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 across the life span in one's own community. He suggested this award in 2011 as a means 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 the "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 is sustainable. 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 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 staffed
- 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

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.

The initial nomination period will be from March 1, 2013 to June 1, 2013. The nomination forms will be reviewed, and selected programs will be contacted by phone for additional information. The programs selected for this year's highlight will be announced in August 2013. Please use the attached nomination form to recommend your local star for recognition. This letter and form are also posted on the CMHPC Website. We want to hear about it!

Thank you,

John Ryan, Chair
California Mental Health Planning Council

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*Definitions for the components are on the attached Reviewer's Score sheet.