



CALIFORNIA

Health Policy Forum

Transforming Mental Health in California: Proposition 63 Implementation Challenges and Successes

Speaker Biographies

Carol S. Hood

Carol Hood has provided leadership in the California Department of Mental Health's Systems of Care Division since 1988. Ms. Hood managed the effort to change Medicaid mental health services to a managed care system through September of 1998. From October of 1998 to December of 2000, Ms. Hood held the position of Assistant Deputy Director, Systems of Care. In January of 2001, Ms. Hood was promoted to Deputy Director, Systems of Care, within the California Department of Mental Health. In June of 2006, Ms. Hood was assigned to a special project, MHSA. Ms. Hood graduated with honors (Summa Cum Laude) from the University of California with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology and a minor in Mathematics. In addition, she earned a Master's degree with honors from the University of Minnesota.

James Hurley

James Hurley, MFT, is the coordinator of four programs for Stanislaus County Behavioral Health and Recovery Services in Modesto California. The Wellness Recovery Center, which opened in June of 1998 as the first one of its kind in California, provides services and supports, and it supports the development of recovery principles system wide. The Psychiatric Liaison Clinic, co-located at the Wellness Recovery Center, supports the relationship between psychiatry and primary care physicians. James also manages two young adult programs for youth between the ages of 16 and 25; a 60-member ACT service team and a drop-in center. All programs he coordinates provide supports by peer/consumer staff and volunteers, and professional staff for persons diagnosed with serious mental illness.

James has worked in the mental health field for over 29 years and has written or co-written numerous articles on recovery from mental illness and has conducted recovery trainings locally and statewide. He participates regularly in supporting the implementation of recovery principles in Stanislaus County Behavioral Health and Recovery Services through an active collaboration with peer staff, staff, and volunteers, and assisting in system of care design for Stanislaus County.

Patricia Ryan, MPA

Patricia Ryan is Executive Director of the California Mental Health Directors Association (CMHDA), the statewide association representing local public mental health departments and services. The mission of CMHDA is to provide leadership, advocacy, expertise and support to California's county and city mental health programs (and their system partners) that will assist them in serving persons with serious mental illness and serious emotional disturbance. Their goal is to assist in building a public mental health system that ensures the accessibility of quality, cost-effective mental health care that is consumer- and family-driven, recovery- and resiliency-based, and culturally competent.

In her capacity as Executive Director, Ryan is responsible for overseeing all of CMHDA's government relations activities, including ongoing public policy issue identification and analysis, and advocacy with the Legislature and relevant state and federal agencies. Since 2004, Ryan has also been significantly involved in representing and advocating for local mental health departments in issues related to their role in implementation of Proposition 63 – the Mental Health Services Act. Prior to joining CMHDA, Ms. Ryan served for nine years as Vice President for Behavioral Health and Governance at the California Hospital Association (CHA). Ms. Ryan also held various political and policy-oriented positions in Washington, D.C. After leaving Capitol Hill, she worked as Assistant Director of Government Relations for the American Psychiatric Association, and then was Associate Director of Congressional Affairs for the National Association of Psychiatric Health Systems. Ms. Ryan holds a master's degree in public administration from the George Washington University in Washington, D.C.

Richard S. Van Horn

The Reverend Richard Van Horn became President and CEO of Mental Health America of Los Angeles (then Mental Health Association) in May of 1980. The mission of MHALA is to provide direct services to people with mental illnesses, educate the public about mental illnesses and their effects on individuals and on society, and to advocate for improved care for and prevention of mental and emotional disorders. Before assuming the position of President and CEO, Van Horn served on MHA's Board of Directors from 1976 to 1980.

Van Horn has been instrumental in the development of strong coalitions of people concerned with the care and treatment of those with psychiatric disorders. He played a major role in the development and passage in November 2004 of Proposition 63: a special tax for transforming California's public mental health system into an integrated model of recovery and wellness oriented services. In 2005, Van Horn took a six month leave of absence from MHA to be the Principal Consultant for the new Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission. This body is responsible for maintaining an accountable relationship to taxpayers regarding the programs and progress toward mental health system transformation. Van Horn has served on the Board of Directors of Mental Health America (formerly the National Mental Health Association) and has testified before the U.S. Congress regarding issues affecting people with mental illnesses. Richard Van Horn is a graduate of Harvard University and received his Master of Divinity in 1965 from the General Theological Seminary in New York.

Mistique Felton, MPH

Mistique Felton is a Senior Research Associate at the Nicholas C. Petris Center on Health Care Markets and Consumer Welfare. She has been involved in health or healthcare research for 10 years including work at Chiron, Children's Hospital Oakland Research Institute (CHORI), University of Michigan, and University of California, Berkeley. She received her masters at the University of Michigan in the department of Health Policy and Management. While in Michigan, she worked for the Michigan Center for Genomics and Public Health. She received her bachelor's degree at UC Berkeley in Molecular and Cell Biology. Her work at the Petris Center has included topics such as the uninsured and access to prescription drugs, the global market of ADHD drugs, Consumer Driven Health Plans, and the Mental Health Service Act (MHSA).