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CBHDA AND CIBHS PAY TRIBUTE TO DR. SANDRA NAYLOR GOODWIN

Sacramento, CA – The California Institute for Behavioral Health Solutions (CIBHS) and the County Behavioral Health Directors Association (CBHDA) today recognized Dr. Sandra Naylor Goodwin for her tireless work in shaping California's behavioral health landscape. Dr. Goodwin passed away on September 8th, 2019.

"Dr. Sandra Naylor Goodwin was a true advocate for individuals living with mental illness in California through clinical practice and in her role as the founding leader of CIBHS where she helped counties to advance research and policy related to behavioral health said Michelle Doty Cabrera, Executive Director of CBHDA.

Dr. Goodwin created CIBHS (formerly the California Institute for Mental Health) in 1993 after a transformational career in behavioral health. During her time at CIBHS, Sandra helped create the Children's System of Care, the Center for Multicultural Development and helped form the Cathie Wright Center and statewide dissemination of evidence-based practices.

Prior to forming CIBHS, Sandra had a long tenure as clinician and county mental health leader. Sandra began her career as a clinician at Chicago Reed Mental Health Center, becoming the Chief of Staff in only two years. She later relocated to California where she became the Clinical Director for Placer County Mental Health Department, and subsequently became the Mental Health Director in 1981.

Dr. Goodwin deployed her deep expertise to significantly influence mental health policy and programs through state legislation. She was instrumental in writing 1991 re-alignment legislation which shifted authority for mental health programs from the state to counties. She was also a key player in helping conform California law to align with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

"As the founding CEO of CIBHS, Sandra led the organization into what it is today: one of the leading agencies that help health professional, agencies, and funders improve the lives of people living with mental health and substance use challenges," said Percy Howard, CEO of CIBHS. "Those of us who have been fortunate enough to know and work with Sandra have lost a dear friend and an inspiring mentor. On behalf of CIBHS and CBHDA, we extend our deepest sympathies to Sandra's family. We will honor her memory by dedicating ourselves to continuing to work towards a better future in behavioral health."

The County Behavioral Health Directors Association is a statewide non-profit association that represents all 58 county behavioral health directors and two city mental health programs (Berkeley and Tri-City) which is dedicated to advocating for public policy and services on behalf of people who are living with substance use disorders and mental illness.

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