

## The Year in Review

A Message from the Executive Director

The week before Christmas is a time of reflection for many of us. What happened during the year? What was I or my organization able to accomplish?

For all of us here at CBHA, it's been a year of change and growth. Our in-house Policy team finally came to fruition with the addition of **Le Ondra Clark Harvey** as our Director of Policy and Legislative Affairs and **Jay Calcagno** as our Legislative Coordinator in January. Together, they hit the ground running to implement our 2018 Policy Platform and stay on top of the legislative process through the bills and budget requests. In addition, the Policy Committee really came together and helped guide our efforts as part of our goal to more fully engage our members in the various legislative, budgetary and regulatory issues that we faced this year.

We previously sent out a summary of our legislative and budget successes, so I won't cover it in detail here, but we had some significant successes. Key among them was the **inclusion of \$10 million in funding for the Workforce, Education and Training (WET) program** which CBHA spearheaded. We held two Advocacy Days in 2018, which raised our visibility considerably within the Legislature and helped gain us some key legislative advocates that contributed to our successes for the year. Jay developed a new system for tracking the 180+ bills that we followed this year, and Le Ondra did a great job of working together with the CBHA Policy Committee to develop our **2019 Policy Platform**, which is a much more inclusive and comprehensive document as compared to our first one for 2018.

The Operations Department also accomplished a lot. This department oversees membership, programs and communications and is led by Director of Operations and Programs **Sara Kahoalii** with Communications and Member Services Manager **Eliza Caliolio**. Our Members Webinars, one of the benefits of being a member of CBHA, continued to grow with presentations on a variety of topics and issues. Sara and Eliza oversaw a complex project to identify a new member management software system that meets the needs of our staff and members and moved our database and members to MemberClicks; tied into this was a complete overhaul of our website as we moved it to a new portal. All of this took a lot of time and effort on their part, and due to their dedication and efforts, it went very smoothly. We also introduced our new **Career Center**, which allows our members to post positions they have open to our **CBHA Job Board**. Eliza also worked on our **social media platform** and raised the visibility of CBHA in that arena.

I am truly thankful for the dedication and commitment of our staff, our Board members and the representatives of our member agencies who serve on the various committees. Without each of them, we wouldn't have had the successes we've had over this past year. To our member agencies – Thank You! Without you, we wouldn't be here to begin with. And finally, to our partners, allies and friends in the behavioral health world, thank you for your support and for your dedication to working together with us to address the issues and challenges facing the behavioral health community.

CALIFORNIA COUNCIL OF COMMUNITY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AGENCIES



On behalf of the CBHA staff, Board and member agencies, we wish everyone happy holidays and a very happy new year in 2019!

Paul Curtis  
Executive Director