



Mental Health and Criminal Justice Commission Project
Panelist and Presenter Biographies
September 22, 2016

HAROLD TURNER

Harold Turner serves as the Director of Programs for the Urban Los Angeles affiliate of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI). NAMI Urban Los Angeles is dedicated to the support and education for families of people with serious and persistent brain disorders (mental illness). NAMI Urban Los Angeles advocates for better services in the public system of care, seeks to educate the public about the myths of mental illness to eradicate stigma and support brain research. NAMI Urban Los Angeles has provided a variety of educational and social services to address the essential and changing needs of families coping with mental illness in South Los Angeles, Southwest Los Angeles, and surrounding communities. NAMI Urban Los Angeles provides services to over 350 families and individuals annually. One of Harold's major focuses is implementing a social justice approach to mental health services, building community based programs and collaborations that address the particular needs of the community we serve. The major role of the Director of Programs is program management/development, community outreach, staff development and allocation of resources.

ROBIN KAY, Ph.D., Acting Director of Mental Health, County of Los Angeles – Department of Mental Health – *UPDATED*

Dr. Robin Kay is the Acting Director for the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health. Dr. Kay is a psychologist who received her master's and doctoral degrees from Fordham University in New York.

Dr. Kay's career has been dedicated to community mental health where she has had experience at all levels of service delivery and administration. She began her professional career at the Didi Hirsch Community Mental Health Center in Los Angeles, eventually becoming the Director of the Adult Outpatient and Prevention and Education programs in addition to serving as the mental health consultant to the Culver City Fire Department.

In 1995, Dr. Kay moved to the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (DMH) where she served as the District Chief for the Westside of Los Angeles, collaborating with diverse stakeholders to develop systems of care for children, transition age youth, adults, and older adults. Committed to addressing the needs of homeless adults, Dr. Kay served as the Chair of the Westside Shelter and Hunger Coalition. In addition, while working in Service Area 5, Dr. Kay developed and implemented the first comprehensive Los Angeles County Mental Health Urgent Care Center.

Prior to her appointment as Acting Director for DMH, Dr. Kay served for more than eight years as the Department's Chief Deputy Director. In that role, Dr. Kay spearheaded DMH efforts in the areas of health reform and integrated care. She regularly lectures on community mental health, including presentations on crisis-oriented therapy and the funding of public mental health programs. She is grateful to have the opportunity to work in community mental health, promoting hope, wellness and recovery for the residents of Los Angeles County.