OUTCOMES FROM JUNE 13, 2013 MENDING POVERTY CONFERENCE

The **Sixth Annual MENDing Poverty Conference** brought together 190 people on Wednesday, June 13, 2013 at the headquarters of MEND - Meet Each Need with Dignity in Pacoima. This year the conference focused on healthcare reform for low income individuals, asking the question "are they *included* or *invisible*?" Much of the conference addressed the changing roles of nonprofits serving people living in poverty, now that the Affordable Healthcare Act is being fully implemented.

The California Endowment's CEO Dr. Robert Ross opened the conference by highlighting how challenges of health insurance reform fit with other issues California is wresting with - education reform, immigration reform and gay marriage. Next, keynote speaker Dr. Jonathan Fielding, Director of the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, looked at how the public health system will support healthcare reform, especially where poor and currently-uninsured people are concerned. He emphasized ways nonprofit providers can work with the public health system.

After a networking break so conference participants could connect with each other, three Action Workshops were presented: *(1) The Home Health Model: Innovative Services for Low Income Individuals; (2) The Affordable Care Act and Worksite Wellness Programs for Nonprofits;* and *(3) Challenges of Providing Healthcare to the Invisible.* Speakers ranged from Diane Factor of the Worker Education & Resource Center, to Dr. Joel Hyatt of Kaiser Permanente, to Professor Leo Estrada of UCLA.

During lunch, the *2013 MENDing Poverty Nonprofit Leadership Award* was presented to Melinda Cordero-Barzaga, Associate Director of Visión y Compromiso. The Award, given for the first time this year, recognizes the work of a senior executive in the Los Angeles nonprofit sector who is both a highly effective leader within his or her own organization, and also is a leader in the nonprofit community at large.

The conference concluded with a talk by Jason Silva, from Health Net's Medicare/Medicaid Compliance Department. He gave an overview of the Dual Eligibles Coordinated Care Demonstration, now called Cal MediConnect. This three-year demonstration project promotes coordinated health care delivery to seniors and people with disabilities who are dually eligible for both Medicare and MediCal.

The conference's hosts were *MEND* and *Valley Nonprofit Resources,* with support provided by a set of sponsors – Kaiser Permanente, The California Endowment, The California Wellness Foundation, Wells Fargo, Office of Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Office of Councilmember Richard Alarcon, Bank of America, Facey Medical Group, Health Net, LA Care, Mission Community Hospital, Neighborhood Legal Services of LA County, Northeast Valley Health Corporation, Pacific Federal, Southern California Edison and Valley Presbyterian Hospital. A Planning Committee co-chaired by James Garrison of Pacific Federal and Jocelyn Guihama of UCLA Center for Civil Society guided development of the conference.

The conference evaluation showed that overall satisfaction with the conference was "high" or "very high" for 100% of participants, and 97% said that the likelihood of their attending the conference again next year also was "high" or "very high." Overall satisfaction with the keynote speakers was "high" or "very high" for 97% of participants, as it was for networking opportunities at the conference.

We would like to hear from you if you have ideas about taking action from MENDing Poverty 2013, or about how to shape a successful conference day for MENDing Poverty 2014, which is already in the planning stages - with the likely theme of "hunger and people living in poverty."

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