



**Mental Health Association
in Orange County, Inc.**

NADIA ALLEN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Mental Health Association in Orange County, Inc., Announces Retirement of Executive Director, Nadia Allen

On behalf of Mental Health Association in Orange County, Inc.'s (MHA) Board of Directors, it is with mixed emotions that we announce Nadia Allen's decision to retire as Executive Director.

Nadia has worked in the human services field for the past 40 years and MHA in Orange County for the past 20 years, serving with the utmost distinction, professionalism and passion. She is highly respected and has cultivated an organization that has earned a reputation for excellence.

Due to Nadia's advocacy and integrity, MHA is widely recognized on the local, state and national levels for its progressive programming and expertise in the areas of sexual assault, developmental disabilities, mental health, crisis intervention, peer services for Veterans, cultural competence and responsiveness in times of community emergency.

Nadia has served as a leader whose ear is always to the ground. She not only stayed involved firsthand with the ever-changing human services landscape, but she consistently took the existing knowledge and practices further through her forward-thinking management. This has positioned the agency to be at the forefront of change in order to provide those served with the best and most progressive opportunities.

Nadia has consistently sought to usher in the most innovative supports and services. As a result, the array of programs at MHA are vast and diversified, providing individuals with a large and varied menu of opportunities. Many "firsts" have originated at MHA and Nadia's surefooted leadership is what has inspired the confidence among her staff to take that first step into uncharted territory. Nadia's steadfast leadership can always be relied upon, to uphold with conviction, that the rights of the people served must continually be advanced, that social justice will prevail, and that the stigma of mental illness will be extinguished once and for all.

Nadia has been recognized as a dynamic and skilled speaker and sought out nationally for her expertise. She has been the recipient of several honors on the local and state levels and has been recognized for her passionate advocacy.

Nadia's last day will be March 26, 2021. MHA's Board of Directors is engaging in the search process and is developing a succession plan to ensure a smooth transition to the successor and agency.

Please join us in wishing Nadia all the best in her next chapter.

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