

COMIO Member Joel Fay Honored

COMIO Member Joel Fay, PsyD., was awarded the Christine M. West Award for 2009 by the Forensic Mental Health Association of California (FMHAC) at this year's annual conference. The West Award recognized Officer Fay for his significant individual contribution, dedication, hard work and highly effective support to the field of Forensic Mental Health.

Officer Fay has been a Police Officer since 1975 and earned his Doctorate in Clinical Psychology in 1993. Working tirelessly on many fronts, Dr. Fay has developed an inter-agency collaborative model to support the treatment of the mentally ill homeless and their transition from the criminal justice system back into society. He educates law enforcement officers throughout the state on crisis intervention and mental health/forensic issues, runs a treatment facility for first responders, supervises PsyD interns and has recently collaborated with several groups to develop a statewide CIT association. In addition, he is past President of the California Forensic Mental Health Association and is President of the West Coast Trauma Retreat. Officer Fay was appointed in 2008 to the State Council on Mentally Ill Offenders (COMIO).

The West Award is named in honor of Christine M. West who was Director of San Francisco Jail Psychiatric Services for eight years and established Forensic Health Care. Her dedication to the organization included an enormous investment of energy in the FMHAC including service as the board treasure. Ms. West spoke nationally about Jail Forensic Mental Health. She passed away in late 1991.