

WORDS TO DEEDS

CHANGING THE
PARADIGM FOR
CRIMINAL JUSTICE
AND MENTAL HEALTH



A PROJECT OF THE FORENSIC MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA

Thank you for your interest in ***Words to Deeds: Changing the Paradigm for Criminal Justice and Mental Health***. The Forensic Mental Health Association of California [FMHAC] presented ***Words to Deeds XVI – Reaching Out: Crisis Response and the Implementation of 988***, November 2-3, 2022, at the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission Building in Sacramento, California, in a live/hybrid format. The conference focused on California’s exciting opportunity to build a robust crisis response system – an integral part of a successful, holistic continuum of care program that promotes upstream crisis prevention. State and local implementation partners examined integrating 988 operations into a response system that engages and incentivizes community-based stakeholders to participate in a mutually beneficial statewide collaborative network. The right people must be at the table to optimize planning, outreach, and implementation. Funding streams must be identified and aligned. Raising awareness about where California is collectively in planning and development, and engendering trust among stakeholders is key to identifying challenges and pain points as they arise, sharing best practices, and empowering collaborative problem-solving.

In its 20th year, ***Words to Deeds XVII*** planning is underway, typically scheduled for November. The proposed conference is considering curriculum to highlight such issues as: Continuing to Build a Successful Crisis Continuum of Care – including Crisis Response and 988 updates; CalAIM and the DHCS Justice-Involved Initiative; Creating a Pathway to Housing for the Justice-Involved Population; Department of State Hospitals: IST Diversion Progress; the SUD Population – Diversion, Reentry, and Maximizing the Opioid Settlement Funds; the Council on Criminal Justice and Behavioral Health: the Data-Driven Recovery Project and the *Public Health Meets Public Safety Report*; and Behavioral Health Workforce Development and Peer Certification. Youth-focused and lived-experience perspectives are interwoven throughout policy discussions.

From the first statewide conference in 2003, ***Words to Deeds: Changing the Paradigm for Criminal Justice and Mental Health*** has served as California's premier forum for addressing the nationwide challenge of reducing the number of and improving outcomes for individuals with mental illness in the criminal justice system. This forum has evolved into a standard best practice for creating opportunities among individuals and systems from various professional backgrounds to foster collaborative problem solving and empowering leaders from state and local government, the courts, criminal justice, corrections, and mental health organizations. Since its inception, key decision-makers have convened to develop strategies for alternatives to incarceration, treatment, and programming for those in law enforcement custody and transitioning out of custody into the community.

To ensure an optimum interactive experience for participants, attendance at the in-person educational conference was limited to 80 policy and decision-makers from diverse professional backgrounds statewide on an invitation-only basis. The hybrid meeting provided a unique opportunity to brainstorm with successful first adapters and problem solvers on a peer-to-peer level to develop innovative, useful solutions for working across disciplines and jurisdictions. ***Words to Deeds*** has been so successful that attendees look forward to returning, and each year there is a waiting list as soon as invitations are received. Last year we were pleased to expand into a hybrid format allowing more participation statewide via video platform access.

Words to Deeds XVI Session Topics included:

- *California's Behavioral Health Crisis Continuum of Care Overview*
- *Preventing Crisis – Someone to Call*
- *Responding to Crisis – Someone to Come*
- *Stabilizing Crisis – Somewhere to Go*
- *Taking Action! Deep-Dive, Blue-Sky Sessions - What keeps you up at night?*
 - *Beyond the Crisis – Step Down Residential Services and Permanent Housing*
 - *Essential Technology – Links to Success*

Since 2003, organizational support and funding have been provided by: the American Psychiatric Association Foundation, the California Board of State and Community Corrections, the California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training, the California HealthCare Foundation, the California Highway Patrol, the California State Association of Counties, the California State Sheriffs' Association and Foundation, the Council on Mentally Ill Offenders/Council on Criminal Justice and Behavioral Health, the County Behavioral Health Directors Association of California, the Every Day Matters Foundation, the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health, the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission, the National Association of Counties, the Orange County Sheriff's Department, Yolo County, the Capitol Event Center, Cloud 9 Telehealth, Court Call, Netsmart, and the corporate foundations of Eli Lilly and Company, Otsuka, Janssen, and Alkermes.

For 48 years, FMHAC has advanced the provision of mental health services to persons involved in the criminal justice system and provided educational opportunities to the professionals involved in delivering these services.

Information about **Words to Deeds**, including past programs and recap reports, speakers, participants, **Paradigm Award** honorees, and resources, can be found on the website: www.fmhac.org under the "**Words to Deeds**" tab, <https://www.fmhac.org/w2d-about.html>.

You may find the listing of the **Words to Deeds Leadership Group** members and participating organizations particularly interesting with regard to your collaborative programs.

We welcome the opportunity to talk with you further about **Words to Deeds**.

Please feel free to contact:

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