



CBHA Board President Welcomes New CEO!

September 8th, 2020

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Dear Members and Colleagues,

CBHA's Executive Director, Paul Curtis has made the decision to transition out of his role as ED. Following in the footsteps of a lion such as former ED and Policy Consultant, Rusty Selix, Paul helped guide the Council, maintaining and growing membership, organizing the Council's finances, and developing a strong team to support the work of the Council. Paul will be missed for his warmth, his customer-oriented approach to membership, and his commitment to behavioral health equity.

Paul's strategic development of a talented team has eased the job of searching for a successor. The Board is very pleased to announce that we have appointed Dr. Le Ondra Clark Harvey to serve as the new Chief Executive Officer of CCCBHA. Le Ondra has been Director of Policy and Legislative Affairs since January 2018.

Earning a PhD in Counseling Psychology from the University of Wisconsin, Madison, Le Ondra brings a clinical background, and national and local Board leadership experience, as well as deep legislative experience having worked in leadership positions in both the Senate and Assembly. She has leveraged these skills and connections to advance the legislative and policy agenda of CBHA, including leading the effort to appropriate over \$100M in state funding for Workforce, Education and Training funds for clinicians and trainees, and partnering with allied behavioral health organizations to protect realignment funds for counties during the pandemic. She has furthered the work of CBHA, representing the Council on several state-level stakeholder groups and policy councils.

Le Ondra has demonstrated the resource development and communication skills necessary to lead CBHA. She secured \$50K in grant funds to assist CBHA members during the pandemic. She has revitalized the California Access Coalition. Additionally, Le Ondra has elevated the media platform of CBHA. She has placed several OpEds in the SacBee, has been interviewed on PBS and NPR. Le Ondra has been recognized as one of the "100 Healthcare Influencers" in California.

Please join me in thanking and wishing Paul Curtis the best on his journey, and in welcoming our new CEO, Dr. Le Ondra Clark Harvey. In these challenging times, accessible and high-quality behavioral healthcare is more critical now than ever. The Board is grateful for Paul's efforts in bringing the Council to where it is today, and we are confident that we are in great hands with Le Ondra at the helm.

Vitka Eisen, MSW, EdD
CBHA Board President

California Council of Community Behavioral Health Agencies

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