

## Message from the California Institute for Behavioral Health Solutions

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### *Life Is With People!!*

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The Recovery literature is replete with references to relationships, peers and allies, social support networks, social learning, belonging, social inclusion, and community. With that in mind, public behavioral health care organizations with multidisciplinary **teams** and **systems** of care are commonly considered an excellent venue for nurturing recovery. *It hasn't always been that way.*

Behavioral health care services have evolved from a "cottage industry" of psychotherapy focused on the singular client and therapist interaction to family therapy and community mental health. Through this evolution, mental health practitioners began to acknowledge and attend to the fact that individuals develop and function in the context of family and community relationships...not just perceptions and mental representations of these relationships, but actual interpersonal influences as well. Through this evolution, we came to understand the importance of identity, and the fact that we experience our identities in relation to others.

Today, **consultation, collaboration and continuity of care** command greater attention than ever before. Thus, the LPS Clinical Assessment Guidelines and this Toolkit were developed by multiple stakeholders, those who will be implementing the Guidelines as well as those whose care is affected by them.

The LPS Consensus Guidelines set a high standard of Recovery-oriented services and quality of care for involuntarily detained individuals. The implications are clear for the practice of each psychiatrist, nurse, social worker, and every other staff member at psychiatric emergency and inpatient services. *But very few of these guidelines can be implemented by any one individual. It takes a team approach.*

Our recovery, from the lingering effects of our "cottage industry" past, just as our clients' recovery, needs to emerge from the teams and systems that we are...policy advocates, administrators, managers and practitioners; inpatient, emergency, outpatient and rehabilitation service providers; clients, families, peer supports and professionals. We can do this if we do it together.

*This Toolkit is For Us.*

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