

## LACDMH Congratulates 2016 Employees of the Year

By Kathleen Piché, LCSW, Public Affairs Director



On Wednesday, October 26, 2016, the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (LACDMH) HONORS Committee celebrated the department's 2016 Employee of the Year Awards at the Los Angeles City Friendship Center.

This year, there were a record-breaking 335 LACDMH employees who participated in the program, including 105 nominators and 241 nominees, with a total of 73 final

nominations.

The LACDMH Employee of the Year program is designed so employees can honor their extraordinary colleagues. Comprised of a diverse group of employee peers, the HONORS Committee reviewed all the nominations and scored them based on the criteria aligned with LACDMH's mission and values.

"The Employees of the Year Awards are the 'Peoples' Choice' Awards for DMH. They are an opportunity for staff – who witness firsthand the contributions made by their peers – to honor their co-workers. DMH is a wonderful Department because we have outstanding staff. It is a privilege to honor our employees of the year as well as those that nominated them," said Robin Kay, Ph.D., LACDMH Chief Deputy Director.

LACDMH's Employees of the Year for 2016:

**Leadership:**

Lorraine Viade, Psy.D., Supervising Psychologist, Metro North



**Dedicated Direct Services Individual:**

Carlos Gonzalez



## Dedicated Direct Services Team:

Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall Clinical Team: Carla Bressel, Carly Berdischewsky, Charlene Goodman, Evlin Abed, Jazmin Rodriguez, Jenny Tran, Karen Briceño, Mary Nasry, Michelle Garcia, Milton Island, Nancy Velasquez, Saruon Touch, Vanessa Ortiz-Tudela



Long Beach Child and Adolescent Program CalWORKs Team: Aglaed Salazar, Anna Khijniak, Argelia Estrada-Villasenor, Eva Sofia Mendoza, Fabiola Aguilar, Grizette Martinez, Jose Reynoso, LaToya Walker, Renee Graham, Vanessa Espinosa



**Dedicated Support Services Individual (3 winners):**

Benson Li

Krikor Baghboudarian

Priya Shewaramani



**Dedicated Support Services Team:**

Mental Health Commission Team: Canetana Hurd, Terry Lewis, Valerie Maldonado



## Career Achievement:

Debbie Innes-Gomberg, Ph.D., Deputy Director, ASOC



Melanie Leland, Ph.D., Clinical Program Head, Valley Coordinated Children's Services

