

**THE LA COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION'S
14TH ANNUAL A NIGHT UNDER THE STARS CELEBRATION
By Kimberli Washington, Public Information Office**



Catalina's Jazz and Supper Club in Hollywood held a star-filled event for award-worthy individuals on Thursday, October 24, 2013. It was the Los Angeles County Mental Health Commission's 14th annual *Profiles of Hope Awards* gala.

The event included over 100 LACDMH staff, advocates, commissioners and clients coming together to celebrate the good works and success of their peers. The evening began with a social hour, exclusive book signing and photographs with this year's Lifetime Achievement Award winner, actress and author, Mariel Hemingway.



As the crowd gathered inside for the program, the smooth jazz sounds of the John Burroughs High School IMA Jazz Ensemble set the celebratory mood. Guests engaged

in a delightful dinner as the program began with thoughtful words from Mental Health Commissioner Larry Gasco, who also introduced the Master of Ceremony for the evening, LACDMH Director, Dr. Marvin Southard.



This year's Personal Legacy award was presented to former Congressman Patrick J. Kennedy who has advocated for mental health communities throughout the nation. This year, he has organized efforts to honor the 50th Year Anniversary of the Community Mental Health Act, signed by his uncle, President John F. Kennedy. Mr. Kennedy was unable to attend but sent a heartfelt video expressing his gratitude for receiving such an honor.

The 2013 honorees included:



Outstanding Consumer, Catherine Clay

Outstanding Program, Mental Health Court Linkage Program; presented to Alisa Dunn



Outstanding Family and Community Advocate, Carla Jacobs



Outstanding Program, SHARE; presented to Ruth Holman.



Leadership and Social Inclusion, START (School Threat Assessment Response Team); presented to Dr. Tony Beliz



Exemplary Service, California Association of Local Mental Health Directors; accepted by Patricia Ryan, Executive Director



LACDMH Public Affairs Director Kathleen Piché presented the Lifetime Achievement Award to Mariel Hemingway, who also is featured in the Emmy Award-winning LACDMH *Profiles of Hope* series.



The evening concluded with closing comments from the 2013 Awards Committee Chair, Mental Health Commissioner Victoria Sofro.

