

PARTNERS IN SUICIDE PREVENTION HONORED WITH AMERICAN PSYCHIATRIC FOUNDATION AWARD

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LACDMH Program Head, James Cunningham, Ph.D., and LACDMH Training Coordinator, Jae Kim, L.C.S.W., traveled to New York on May 3, 2014, to receive an American Psychiatric Foundation Award for Advancing Minority Mental Health for 2014, on behalf of the Partners in Suicide Prevention (PSP) program. The event took place on the USS Intrepid in the Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum in Hangar 2 during the American Psychiatric Association annual meeting. The award was established to recognize mental health professionals and programs that make concerted efforts to increase public awareness of and secure quality and comprehensive mental healthcare for underserved minorities.

This is not the first award for the PSP program; in 2013, it was honored with a Productivity and Quality Award for “Team of the Year.” Since its inception in 2010, the Partners in Suicide Prevention Program has made special efforts to outreach minority populations.

Among the documentation submitted to the American Psychiatric Foundation, James Cunningham, Ph.D., cited the exemplary work done by Jae Kim, L.C.S.W., in reaching the Korean American community. Mr. Kim has utilized public media, including

newspapers and television to promote mental health awareness and has conducted Korean language trainings in suicide prevention.

PSP Team Activities:

- Increase public awareness
- Reduce stigma/discrimination associated with mental illness, substance abuse and suicide
- Provide education and training
- Identify underserved communities
- Promote prevention/early intervention
- Create linkages, provide referrals
- Assist care providers
- Participate in countywide committees/networks

The PSP Team builds relationships with LACDMH's array of contract and directly operated programs to enhance the quality of existing mental health resources as well as assist new providers while assuring the overarching vision of Hope, Wellness and Recovery is achieved with clients, family members and the community at large.