



1300 17<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 1000  
Sacramento, CA 95811  
(916) 445-8696  
FAX: (916) 445-4927

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**January 13, 2009**

**Superintendent O'Connell Names The Rev. Richard Van Horn to  
Proposition 63 Commission**

California State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell has named Mr. Richard Van Horn of Los Angeles as his representative on the California Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC). Superintendent O'Connell selected Mr. Van Horn after the election of his prior representative, former State Senator Wesley Chesbro, to the California Assembly.

The 16-member MHSOAC was formed by the passage of Proposition 63, the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA), in November 2004. The MHSOAC is responsible for overarching oversight and accountability for implementation of the MHSA.

Mr. Van Horn is the President and CEO of the Mental Health Association of Los Angeles. He has held these positions since 1980. In 2005, Mr. Van Horn took a six month leave of absence from the Mental Health Association of Los Angeles to serve as the Principal Consultant for the new MHSOAC.

Currently, Mr. Van Horn oversees the administration of Mental Health America of Los Angeles, whose mission is to provide direct services to people with mental illnesses, educate the public about mental illnesses and their effects on individuals and on society and to advocate for improved care for and prevention of mental and emotional disorders.

Mr. Van Horn said, "I am very pleased to have been appointed to the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission." "The next few years are a critical time as the mental health system plans and executes a total transformation of care, culture, and goals in order to embrace a wellness, recovery, and resilience approach to mental illness," said Mr. Van Horn.

Mr. Van Horn is a member of the boards of the Mental Health Association of California, the California Institute for Mental Health and the California Council of Community Mental Health Agencies. Mr. Van Horn is a past member of the

National Board of Directors of Mental Health America (formerly the National Mental Health Association). On behalf of Mental Health America, Mr. Van Horn has testified before the Congress of the United States regarding issues affecting people with mental illnesses. Mr. Van Horn is also a member of the board of the National Council of Community Behavioral Health.

Mr. Van Horn is a graduate of Harvard University and received his Master of Divinity from the General Theological Seminary in New York.

Mr. Van Horn fills the seat on the MHSOAC as the designee of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction. Members of the MHSOAC serve without compensation.

Contact: Matt Lieberman  
(916) 445-8793  
Matthew.lieberman@dmh.ca.gov