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Dear Colleagues and Friends,

I am deeply honored for being recognized as a 2014 Behavioral Healthcare National Champion. While I have been honored by a number of much appreciated recognitions, this award is by far the most meaningful since by their joint initiative The Hume Center's management team, supervisors, and our development consultant nominated me for this prestigious award. Having all of these colleagues recognize my accomplishments is a most touching moment in my professional life journey.

The article announcing the award, which was written by Julie Miller, *Behavioral Healthcare's* Chief Editor, focused on the foundations of The Hume Center's Training Program and on our Integrated Intensive Community Outpatient Program (IICOP). As I read the article I reflected on the numerous people who have made The Hume Center's Training Program what it is today and who helped implement our IICOP.

I would therefore like to acknowledge with gratitude a number of individuals without whose support and assistance we could not have achieved the accomplishments the article has attributed to me. So I would like to take this occasion to thank them now and point out how they have helped me.

Meji Singh, Ph.D., who is the founding President of The Hume Center, has been responsible for putting into practice the conviction that training of behavioral health professionals in community mental health is paramount to providing effective services. I am not only honored to have been Meji's trainee but I owe to him my recognition of the importance of cultivating collective efforts to deliver quality training and services. My leadership style simply mirrors his in recognizing the value of our trainees' contributions (every one of our twelve programs has been developed by a trainee) and in providing the necessary supervisory skills to encourage the development of new community programs.

Fawada Mojaddidi has a natural talent for recognizing and following up on opportunities for delivering innovative services. Her awareness of a need for a higher level of services to uninsured individuals, a vulnerable community in Alameda County identified as such by Alameda County Behavioral Healthcare Services (ACBHCS), led ultimately to the development of the Center's Intensive Integrated Community Outpatient Program (IICOP).

Peter Alvisos, MBA, Ph.D., former Chief of Adult Services of ACBHCS, recognizing the unique skills and experience of The Hume Center in providing community mental health services that could reduce institutional care and help individuals to remain functioning within their communities, was our collaborator in the development of IICOP as a pilot project in 2011. Through HealthPac, part of Alameda County's "Bridge to Health Care Reform" we worked to offer a new level of services, Level II, for the Adult System of Care. Peter's business and professional expertise were hugely important assets. He supported the importance of evaluating the outcomes data generated by this new program, particularly as it related to the program's

impact of reducing costly, high level services by offering comprehensive community outpatient services for uninsured individuals in Alameda County. He rightly anticipated that many of these individuals would qualify for MediCal once Health Care Reform began its implementation in 2014.

I'd also like to recognize a number of team members who had a significant roles in the development and implementation of the new Level II of services:

Maryann D'Onforio, Ph.D., former Chief Psychologist of ACBHCS' Crisis Response Program

Julie Da Costa, LCSW, Senior Psychiatric Social Worker, ACBHCS Crisis Response Program

Victoria Meraz, Psy.D., Department Manager of The Hume Center's Behavioral Health Services in Alameda County

Gil Weisman, M.D., The Hume Center's Consulting Psychiatrist

Amrit Saini, M.D., The Hume Center's Staff Psychiatrist

Marissa Mannina, Psy.D., The Hume Center's IICOP Program Manager

Anthony Minor, Psy.D., The Hume Center's former IICOP Mental Health Clinician

Maria Rivera-Tello, The Hume Center's IICOP Mental Health Specialist

Finally, I would like to recognize Brian Newton, Psy.D., another example of how our trainees have helped make the Center what it is today. As one of our doctoral interns, Brian assumed the role of Program Evaluator of the IICOP pilot program. He has continued to make great strides by developing the Center's Clinical Information Systems.

Thank you all very much! My honor owes more than I can easily say to all of you.

Joty Sikand, PyD
President