

**Madera County Unveils Community-Based Web Site for People with Mental Illness, Mental Retardation or Substance Abuse Issues, Their Families and Service Providers**  
Network of Care

Madera, Calif. – Madera County Department of Behavioral Health Services today introduced a breakthrough Web solution for individuals, families and agencies concerned with mental and emotional wellness. Network of Care for Mental Health is an online information place that provides critical information, communication and advocacy tools with a single point of entry. It ensures there is “No Wrong Door” for those navigating the system of behavioral health services, those working to avoid the need for formal services, and those ready to transition out of the behavioral health system.

Sponsored by an innovation grant from the State of California in partnership with the Kern County, Network of Care for Mental Health (<http://madera.networkofcare.org/mh/home/index.cfm>) is a pilot program for California and the nation. Regardless of where individuals, families and agencies begin their search for assistance with behavioral health issues, Network of Care for Mental Health ensures they will find what they need. The new Web site will enable people to find the right service at the right time; educate themselves about their issues; understand current policy initiatives and advocate directly to elected officials, and better manage their affairs, interactions and important records.

The Network of Care for Mental Health provides a comprehensive Service Directory of the behavioral health care services in Madera County, putting people in touch with the right services at the right time. Network of Care also provides easy-to-search libraries and vital information about specific disorders, pending legislation and advocacy, as well as daily news articles from around the world concerning mental health, mental retardation and substance abuse.

To increase accessibility and accommodate Network of Care’s users, the site’s innovative technology provides near-universal access, regardless of literacy or income level, to Web-based services through a text-only version of the site and other adaptive technologies. The site is fully ADA-compliant and Bobby-approved. Network of Care also is available in multiple languages.

Service providers can share challenges and ideas, as well as create powerful new mechanisms to better serve people with mental illness, mental retardation and substance abuse, by embracing Network of Care’s communication tools such as message boards and community calendars. Service providers can even build their own free Web sites in the For Providers section.

Trilogy Integrated Resources LLC of San Rafael, Calif., created, developed and maintains Network of Care for Mental/Behavioral Health and all of the other California Network of Care Web sites, including Network of Care for Seniors and People with Disabilities, currently serving one-third of California’s population and the entire State of Oregon; Network of Care for Kids (ages 0-5); Network of Care for Children & Families (ages 0-18); Network of Care for Developmental Disabilities, and Network of Care for Domestic Violence. Based on requests from across the nation, Trilogy is also developing a Network of Care site for community health.

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