

Is 2017 a Tipping Point for Mental Health Policy?

Oakland organization hosts panel discussion to steer mental health conversation in new year.

OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES, January 3, 2017 /EINPresswire.com/ -- [Lincoln](#), a nonprofit headquartered in Oakland, is hosting a panel discussion sponsored by [Zellerbach Family Foundation](#) to explore issues related to mental health service needs of children and youth in California communities. The [forum](#) will feature legislators, policy makers, and mental health leaders and will take place in Oakland on January 6th, 2017 at 9:30 AM.

The panel discussion led by Assembly Member Tony Thurmond has drawn large crowds of mental health professionals, policy makers, and community members for the past 4 years. “In light of a new federal administration, we need to consider how mental health policy could be impacted moving forward,” says Christine Stoner-Mertz, President and CEO of Lincoln. “It’s essential that we invest in our children and youth to insure that they stay in school, with families, and in their communities whenever possible.”

Confirmed panelists include Superintendent Karen Monroe from the Alameda County Office of Education, Assembly Member Bill Quirk, Assembly Member Thurmond, Alex Johnson, former Executive Director of Children’s Defense Fund-California, Toby Ewing with Mental Health Oversight Committee, and several others.

Lateefa Simon, the President of Akonadi Foundation will moderate the panel and address issues such as the reported increase in hate crimes since the election and what should be done to address the issues of hate, how mental health relates to supporting immigrant families, and specific gaps and barriers to mental health services for youth.



Assembly Member Tony Thurmond, District 15 and Lincoln President & CEO, Christine Stoner-Mertz at 2016 mental health panel discussion.



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To register for the free event, visit LincolnFamilies.org/events or call Lincoln at 510.273.4700.

About Lincoln:

Founded in 1883 as the first racially integrated orphanage in Northern California, our mission remains timeless: Lincoln disrupts the cycle of poverty and trauma, empowering children and families to build strong futures. Today, Lincoln impacts more than 4,000 children and their families in the most underserved communities of the greater San Francisco Bay Area through a continuum of academic achievement, family strengthening, and well-being programs.

An innovative approach, providing comprehensive school, community, and family-focused services, combined with a unique team-based delivery and sound fiscal management, has established Lincoln as a leading regional provider of children and family services. With Lincoln, kids attend school, learn to read, and stay with their families where they do best. For more information and stories, visit LincolnFamilies.org.



Katherine Enad
Lincoln
510.421.6869
email us here

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