

Barbara Mitchell is a statewide recognized expert on older adult behavioral health issues. She is a public mental health professional and manager, who has developed and evaluated programs establishing age specific goals and services to improve the quality of lives for older adults 60+ in the public behavioral health programs in Riverside County and in the state of California.

Ms. Mitchell is dedicated to the field and education of professionals, paraprofessionals, peers, family and community members to increase their knowledge concerning the field of aging and behavioral health. She was one of the founding members of the California Mental Health Advocates for Older Adults (CAMHAOA). An organization committed to promote a statewide forum for education and advocacy of the community about older adult issues in the state of California. Ms. Mitchell held various executive positions and was awarded recognition of her outstanding service to the organization.

Ms. Mitchell was employed as a Mental Health Services Program Manager with the Riverside County Department of Behavioral Health overseeing older adult behavioral health program throughout the county in the state of California. She developed and implemented programing, which was age specific to the older adult population within the county. Ms. Mitchell was responsible for expanding the program from a half million program to eight million upon her retirement.

She has sat on many nonprofit boards serving Riverside County and the state of California including: Foundation on Aging of Riverside County, Josyln Center, California Foundation on Aging and the California Mental Health Advocate for Older Adults (CAMHAOA).

Anna Martinez, former Director of the Office on Aging, appointed her to the In Home Supportive Services (IHSS) Advisory Committee as the Liaison to the Office on Aging where she presently serves to assist caregivers, dependents and older adults with services through advocacy and education. Ms. Mitchell remains on the Office on Aging Advisory Council on Aging serving many executive positions and participates on many subcommittees. She is also the Liaison to the Foundation on Aging of Riverside County to the Advisory Council on Aging. Ms. Mitchell previously served on the state commission the California Commission on Aging, the principle advocate in the state on behalf of older individuals. It is the principal advisory body to the Governor, State Legislatures, and State, Federal and local departments and agencies on issues affecting older individuals.

She is a graduate of the University of Kentucky; she holds a Masters of Social Work and a Bachelor of Arts in Social Work. Ms. Mitchell is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker.

She is married to a Clinical Psychologist and has two adult children, a daughter in the education field and a son, who is disabled living with behavioral health issues.