A History of
Kedren Community Health Center, Inc.

In Celebration of the 50 Year Anniversary
of the Community Mental Health Center Act
Community Mental Health Centers Act

The Mental Retardation Facilities and Community Mental Health Centers Construction Act, know as the Community Mental Health Center Act, in 1963. The law instituted a nationwide network of mental health centers based in local communities.

HISTORY
In the decades before the passage of the Community Mental Health Centers Act, support grew for community-based alternatives to the large custodial institutions that had been the primary option for the care of people with mental illness and mental disabilities. A series of press exposés of conditions in several large state institutions provoked public concern.

In 1955, an act of Congress commissioned a nationwide analysis of mental health needs. The resulting 10-volume report issued in 1960 became the basis for new legislation. New drugs for the treatment of a variety of mental illnesses also became available so that people with these illnesses could more easily manage life outside of custodial institutions. Congress pass the Act in 1963 in response to a special message from President John F. Kennedy, the first such presidential message on mental health issues.

PROVISIONS
The law initiated federal involvement in the construction of community mental health centers and authorized the National Institution of Mental Health to monitor the centers. Amendments to the law in 1965 authorized funding to staff the centers, and it expanded eligibility for grants to include treatment facilities for substance abuse and children’s services. Funding was provided as “seed money.” Local communities applied for grants to fund locally organized centers that met the law’s specifications.

SERVICES
As the community centers opened, they provided both inpatient and outpatient services to the mentally ill, as well as emergency services, day treatment, consultation and education. The centers were accessible to the general population and provided services without regard to clients’ ability to pay.

CHANGES
During the 1970s, President Richard Nixon and Gerald Ford both vetoed funding for the community mental health centers, but Congress voted to override their vetoes. The report of a commission during the administration of President Jimmy Carter led to the passage of the Mental Health Systems Act in 1980, intended to reinvigorate the centers, but it was repealed in 1981 under President Ronald Reagan as part of a budgeting revisions. Services provided by community mental health centers declined in the years that followed.
A Message from Patrick Kennedy:

Fifty years ago today marks President Kennedy's historic message to Congress on mental illness. It was in this message that JFK began laying the groundwork for what would be the first mental health bill to be introduced and passed into legislation. My uncle had the profound realization that as a county, we could no longer continue the inhumane institutionalization of those with mental illness. This message led to the signing of the Community Mental Health Act on October 24th, 1963.

I ask you all to join with me in celebration of this remarkable legislation and all it did to advance community mental health on October 23 – 24, 2013. It will be a time to reflect on all the progress we have made in the past fifty years and to identify the initiatives we need to continue to work on in order to have another fifty years of progress for those with mental illness.

There will be many opportunities to participate in the celebration. On October 23, 2013, I will be hosting the Kennedy Forum on Community Mental Health Gala at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum in Boston, MA. This private gala will be coordinated with mental health organizations from around the county that will be able to participate via webcast of the gala keynote speaker program live at each of their celebrations.

On October 24, 2013 the Kennedy Forum on Community Mental Health Conference will take place in Boston, MA. Advocates, academics, researchers, practitioners and politicians will be invited to come and reflect on current topics in the field of mental health through expert panel discussions and a keynote luncheon program.

I hope you’ll all join me in honoring the work of President Kennedy in the field of community mental health and work with me to create ideas for the next 50 years of mental health policy. In the words of JFK:

“The mentally ill and the mentally retarded need no longer be alien to our affections or beyond the help of our communities.”

It is with this thought in mind that I urge us all to come together in order to progress the research, care, science and policy in the field of mental health. I look forward to celebrating with people all across the county on October 23-24, 2013.

Patrick J. Kennedy
Kedren Community Health Center, Inc.  
Timeline: 1965 - Present

1965
Founded October 22, 1965 by the late Dr. James L. Jones, MD, a child psychiatrist.

1966
1st Kedren Mental Health Center Site opens in 9th & San Pedro & 1st Head Start Site on 1219 Gramercy Place.

1968
Kedren moves to Kedren Community Mental Health Center at 7760 South Central Ave.

1970
Groundbreaking ceremony is held for the new Kedren Community Mental Health Center.

1985
Dr. Frank L. Williams becomes Kedren’s first full time Medical Director.

1992
New programs begin to take shape and the amount of hospital beds increase. Kedren begins to expand services and locations with a residential center for homeless in Compton and 28 Head Start Facilities.

1996
LA Unified moves into Kedren’s Headquarters at 4211 South Avalon Blvd. in order to deliver education for our Children’s Inpatient Program.

1998
Both Mental Health and Head Start budgets double in size; Mental Health capacity expands to 17 beds for children and 31 beds for adults.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>1971</td>
<td>Alban I. Niles becomes Executive Director. Grand Opening and expansion of Kedren Community Mental Health Center at 710 E. 111th Place, Los Angeles.</td>
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<td>1977</td>
<td>Gloria Nabrit becomes Kedren’s CEO, begins expanding services.</td>
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<td>1980</td>
<td>Kedren Community Mental Health center moved into its current residence at 4211 South Avalon Blvd.</td>
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<td>1985</td>
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<td>2002</td>
<td>Dr. John H. Griffith becomes Kedren’s CEO and adds Kedren’s first inpatient pharmacy, reducing the cost of delivering inpatient care.</td>
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<td>2005</td>
<td>Kedren begins developing strong partnerships with primary care physicians in the community.</td>
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<td>2007</td>
<td>Kedren Headquarters adds an additional 22 adult inpatient beds.</td>
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<td>2012</td>
<td>In partnership with the YMCA, the 28th St. Apartments opens its doors to house Kedren’s outpatient clients.</td>
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**ADULT BEDS**

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<td>1998</td>
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<td>2007</td>
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1965

The late Dr. James L. Jones, MD, a child psychiatrist, founded Kedren and began practicing in his own home, providing a crucial service to a community torn apart from the 1965 Watts Riots.

1970

Mayor Tom Bradley and Alban I. Niles review plans on the day of the Groundbreaking Ceremony.
Mayor Tom Bradley cuts the ribbon on the much-anticipated Kedren Community Mental Health Center located on 710 E. 111th Pl., Los Angeles
Assemblywoman Maxine Waters enters the new Kedren Community Mental Health Center on Opening Day.

1977
Pictured from Left to Right:

1977

Alban I. Niles and Supervisor, Kenny Hahn who was instrumental in securing funds for Kedren.

1977
At the time of the death of Dr. Jones, Kedren was operating in the building at 7760 South Central Avenue under the leadership of Executive Director Alban I. Niles. However, prior to Dr. Jones’ death they were able to complete the preliminary plans for the construction of the beautifully designed contemporary building at 710 East 111th Place. Now commonly known as Kedren South, the building on 710 East 111th Place, was occupied in September of 1977 and continues to provide care to the community. This new center was therapeutically designed to allow the clientele and the surrounding community to enjoy both comfort and pride in their association with the center.

This move represented a giant step in the history of the agency since the first programs began in a single office. The new facility helped to centrally locate Kedren and allowed it to expand outpatient adult and children’s services.

During its Opening Day Ceremony, Mayor Tom Bradley and Assemblywoman Maxine Waters arrived to commend the current success of Kedren and recognize the potential for its future. Kedren would soon face an even greater need for service expansion as the 1980s and 1990s proved to be some of the most challenging times in South Central and Central Los Angeles, as depression rates and drug abuse increased - Kedren was able to fulfill the growing needs for mental health services during this time.
1980-Present

Gloria Nabrit, became Kedren’s CEO and began to shape and expand services during a challenging two decades from 1980-1998. During that time, Kedren reached many milestones.

In 1985, Kedren was awarded a contract by the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health for mental health services formerly provided by Central City. This included inpatient services for children and adults and the facilities allowed Kedren to expand day treatment services as well as outpatient services in South Los Angeles. Kedren began operation at its current headquarters at 4211 S. Avalon, providing one of the largest outpatient programs in the state of California, serving children, adolescents and adults.

In the late 80s and 90s Kedren became aware of the extremely high recidivism rates. During that time, Kedren was able to increase inpatient funding and began to look at shifting the focus to community based treatment by utilizing an assertive community treatment model, collaborating inpatient and outpatients care through community partnerships, including housing and employment opportunities.

This was the beginning of implementation of the "one-stop" concept that was originally a result of a community needs assessment done by Dr. Jones and his colleagues in 1965. The identified needs were training, employment, childcare, and food services all located in one service center for timely access, without complicated transportation concerns. This concept was further advanced by Medical Director Dr. Frank L. Williams, who began his work alongside Dr. Jones. Dr. Williams was instrumental in the development and implementation of efficient and effective levels of care for the residents of the community. This model continues to grow and is the foundation for Kedren’s current service delivery system.

In 2002 Dr. John H. Griffith was appointed CEO and an organization analysis conducted at that time determined that Kedren needed to revamp its structure in order to accommodate for the exceptional growth in the 80s and 90s. Under Dr. Griffith's leadership, Kedren's organizational changes progressively began to strengthen the collaboration between the medical and psychiatric professionals, while at the same time utilizing the expertise of many veteran Kedren employees for outreach and community development. This re-adjustment was crucial to continuing the service while keeping a clear view of the future needs of the organization and the community.

In more recent years, Kedren has almost doubled the amount of inpatient beds for adults, increased the budget for Mental Health and Head Start, as well as creating partnerships for housing clients as part of Kedren’s Community Reintegration Program.
Kedren has successfully and systematically operationalized both their mental health services and their Head Start State Preschool Program and Family Service Center. Originally, each of these was federally funded and currently provides both an innovative and excellent array of services for special populations, thereby, demonstrating an exceptional organizational talent for effectiveness and versatility. Each program has also been accomplished under the fine leadership of an extraordinary governance Board and professional staff who commitment enables Kedren to fulfill its mission of providing culturally competent continuum of care services utilizing an efficient and effective collaborative and holistic approach to address the educational, health and mental health needs of residents of Service Area Six, and the surrounding communities.

Kedren has served the community for 48 years without interruption or discontinuation of care. Currently, Kedren serves almost 6,000 people annually.

1986
Gloria Nabrit, in Kedren's office at 4211 South Avalon Blvd.

2004
Dr. John H. Griffith during the Nurses Week Celebration in 2004.
The Future of Care:

The highest priority proposed for the next five years is to enhance overall organizational excellence. Such a priority is timely and important because of the need to anticipate and be proactive about forthcoming changes in healthcare laws and regulations from the Affordable Care Act shifting demographics in the surrounding community and a focus on innovative and integrated models of care for total health and wellness. Along with an organizational excellence priority, special emphasis should be given to promoting and recognizing excellence and leadership in clinical and program delivery, medical and education innovation, and patient satisfaction; as well as improving the quality and effectiveness of holistic wellness programs critical for ensuring a place among the top tier community health centers in the Los Angeles area. These emphases can and should be pursued with a parallel planning and leadership development.

Kedren will provide a full range of primary care services, directly or through referral, that together comprise a comprehensive primary health care system. The range of primary care services to be offered include: immunizations and diagnosis and treatment of acute and chronic illnesses, communicable disease screening and counseling, testing, prevention education, and treatment of chronic conditions, such as hypertension, asthma, and diabetes; outreach and community education services, and health education and prevention services on site and in the community.

While keeping an eye on the future, the legacy of Dr. Jones is never left behind. Our staff acts on these principles daily and believes in the ultimate measure of success to be the patients’ satisfaction with our services.

2012

28th St. Apartments. Part of Kedren’s innovative partnership with the YMCA to renovate apartments for low-income outpatient adults.
Service Overview

Kedren hospital provides psychiatric inpatient and outpatient services to children, transitional aged youths and adults. The types of services that are provided to our patients include medication therapy, extensive psychiatric evaluation, counseling in private and in group settings, and other best practices in an inpatient and outpatient setting. Our outpatient services also include outreach and transportation; as well as 24-hour availability for crisis response and management.

**Kedren Community Care Clinic** will provide community access to primary care physicians and pediatricians 5 days a week.

**Kedren Head Start** provides before and after school care for children who attend any one of the 28 Kedren Head Start Centers.

**Kedren Rehabilitation and Wellness Center** will provide medication and care management services and counseling for healthy living aimed at reducing obesity, diabetes and diabetes-related diseases, drug abuse and unsafe dietary and lifestyle decisions.

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**Community Care Clinic**
Provide community access to primary care physicians and pediatricians 5 days a week.

**Head Start**
28 Head Start Facilities, serving over 2,000 Children.

**Mental Health**
Inpatient and Outpatient Care, Children, Adults, Transitional Aged Youth, Community Outreach, Counseling, AB109 Community Reintegration Program, Kedren Integrated Services Model Program.

**Rehabilitation Wellness Center**
Provide medication and care management services and counseling for healthy living aimed at reducing obesity, diabetes and diabetes-related diseases, drug abuse and unsafe dietary and lifestyle decisions.

**Jobs**
Linkages to job sites, outreach to business and community service organizations, religious organizations, large and small employers.

**Housing**
Linkages to community housing providers of temporary and transitional assistance to permanent housing.
MENTAL HEALTH

Kedren Corporate
4211 South Avalon Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90011

Kedren Vernon
231 West Vernon Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90037

Kedren Western
4322 South Western Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90062

Kedren Figueroa
3800 South Figueroa Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90037

HEAD START

Head Start/State Preschool Administrative Program
710 East 111 Place
Los Angeles, CA 90059

Kedren Angelina
1336 W. Angelina Street
Los Angeles, CA 90026

Kedren Baldwin Hills
3740 Don Felipe Drive
Los Angeles, CA 90008

Kedren Beacon
731 Beacon Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90017

Kedren Cypress I
1145 Cypress Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90065

Kedren Cypress II
2415 Avenue 30
Los Angeles, CA 90065

Kedren Cypress III
3315 Verdugo Road
Los Angeles, CA 90065

Kedren Imperial Courts
11513 Gorman Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90059

Kedren Imperial Courts II
11425 S. Gorman Ave
Los Angeles, CA 90059

Kedren Jordan Downs
9910 Grape St.
Los Angeles, CA 90002

Kedren Manhattan
1200 S. Manhattan Place
Los Angeles, CA. 90019

Kedren Magnolia
2828 W. Magnolia Blvd.
Burbank, CA. 91505

Kedren Mariposa
961 S. Mariposa
Los Angeles, CA. 90006

Kedren Maryland
1317 Maryland Street
Los Angeles, CA. 90017

Kedren Nickerson Gardens
11263 S. Compton Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90039

Kedren Perlita
4118 Chevy Chase Drive
Los Angeles, CA 90039

Kedren Pico
4605 W. Pico Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA. 90019

Kedren Pleasant Hills
2737 Hyans Street
Los Angeles, CA 90026

Kedren St. Anne’s
155 North Occidental Blvd
Los Angeles, C.A. 90026

Kedren Watts I
1341 East 104th Street,
Los Angeles, CA. 90002

Kedren Watts II
1505 Beverly Blvd.,
Los Angeles, CA. 90057

Kedren Watts III
2233 Beverly Blvd.,
Los Angeles, CA

Kedren Watts IV
11230 S. Central Ave.,
Los Angeles, CA.

Kedren Watts V
710 E. 111th Place,
Los Angeles, CA. 90059