



TRANSFORMING  
HEALTHCARE

## ROBIN DEA, MD

Chair, Chiefs of Psychiatry  
Director, Mental Health Services  
Regional Office

What happened in the early 1990s was a bit like a Mission: Impossible movie – “your mission is to develop a new mental health and chemical dependency system.” I’m thrilled to have accepted that mission.

From the beginning, I had the advantage of working with an amazing team to shape a program that is sensitive to our members’ clinical needs, cultural traditions, and their difficulties, whatever they may be.

We knew our patients would benefit from a superb Chemical Dependency Recovery Program, and that was one of the first things we developed. We also knew many people didn’t want to be hospitalized for psychiatric care, so we started intensive outpatient programs to provide that care.

I credit KP’s psychiatry team with creating the “gold standard” for mental health services in the country. It’s been an honor to lead a team that’s so dedicated to caring for our most vulnerable members.

# ROBIN DEA, MD

PSYCHIATRY,  
REDWOOD CITY

## 2009 Cecil Cutting, MD LEADERSHIP AWARD

In the early 1990s, Robin Dea, MD, was charged with designing and implementing a paradigm-shifting group model mental health system.

A skilled and generous psychiatrist with outstanding executive ability, Dr. Dea's redesign of KP Northern California's mental health and chemical dependency system resulted in a dramatic increase in the range and quality of services offered, and is now regarded as the gold standard for population-based mental health programs.

Some of her improvements include subregional chemical dependency recovery programs, on-call access to psychiatric services for emergency department patients, and intensive outpatient programs providing people with care formerly available only during hospitalization.

She's a visionary and creative leader and is relentless in her determination to make systems – and the people they serve – better.

