

# **Marvin Southard**

**Director Doctoral Social Work Program Professor of the Practice in Social Work Dept. of Social Change and Innovation at USC Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work**

Los Angeles, CA, US

Dr. Southard is a nationally renowned expert in the areas of mental health, homelessness, and substance abuse

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## **Biography**

Dr. Southard is a professor of practice. He serves as the Chair school's Doctor of Social Work program.

A licensed clinical social worker, Southard is a nationally renowned expert in the areas of mental health, homelessness and substance abuse. From 1998 to 2015, he was director of the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health, serving more than 250,000 clients annually in one of the most ethnically diverse counties in the nation. During his tenure, he focused on developing community-based partnerships, treatment of co-occurring mental illness and substance use, using peer lead programs and initiating children's mental health programs. Before that, he served in a similar capacity as director of mental health in Kern County, overseeing mental health, substance abuse, public conservatorship and mental health-related HIV services. His past appointments also include seven years as vice president of mental health programs and director of clinical services at El Centro Human Services Corporation in Los Angeles.

He served as senior fellow of public policy at the UCLA School of Public Policy and Social Research; as associate clinical professor at the UCLA School of Medicine's psychiatry and bio-behavioral sciences department; and as clinical associate professor of psychiatry and the behavioral sciences at the Keck School of Medicine of USC. Southard is past president of the California Social Work Education Center Board of Directors as well as past president of the County Behavioral Health Directors Association of California. He was also a commissioner on the LA County Children and Families First – First 5 LA Commission. He is currently Chair of the California Institute of Behavioral Health Solutions and Executive Committee member of Proxy Parent Foundation

Among his many achievements are the 2016 Social Welfare Alumnus of the Year Award from UCLA in recognition of his contributions and dedication to the field of mental health and the 2015 Inter-Agency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect Award for his commitment to protect the most vulnerable children in LA County. He is currently a board member of the California Institute for Behavioral Health Solutions, a member of the American College of Mental Health Administration and a board member of the Network for Social Work Management. Mostly recently he was recognized for Lifetime Achievement by NAMI of California.

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## **Industry Expertise**

Social Services, Mental Health Care, Education/Learning, Research

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## **Areas of Expertise**

Substance Abuse, Mental Health, Social Work, Social Work Education, Homelessness

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## **Education**

**University of California, Los Angeles**  
D. S. W.

**University of California, Berkeley**  
M. S. W.

**St. John's College**  
B. A.

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## **Accomplishments**

**Joseph A. Nunn Social Welfare Alumnus of the Year Award, UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs**  
2016

**U.S. President's Volunteer Service Award, USC School of Social Work Department of Community, Organization, and Business Innovation**  
2016

**Robert C. Egnew Excellence in Advocacy Award, National Association of County Behavioral Health & Developmental Disability Directors**  
2016

**Exemplary Service Award, Los Angeles County Mental Health Commission's 16th Annual Profiles of Hope Volunteer and Program Recognition Awards**  
2015

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