

*Communication from the Director of the Division of Health Equity –*



**DATE:** March 8, 2023

**TO:** All ACBH Employees

**FROM:** ACBH, Division of Health Equity

**SUBJECT:** **ACBH HONORS INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY**

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We want to pause this week to recognize International Women's Day, 2023. As we honor the important role that women play, we would like to especially uplift those women who have worked to shape and advance our understanding and approach to Mental Health and Wellness.

As the first Equity Officer at ACBH, it is heartening to celebrate this year's theme, "Embracing Equity". The Office of Health Equity was developed in the Fall of 2020, in response to a critical need for the department to remain forever grounded in the important work and focus of its most important resource: individuals and family that form our shared community. Women, no doubt play vital roles in all the communities we serve. We take this time to honor and uplift the critical role that women play in the work that we do throughout our care delivery system.

We honor the voices, strengths, leadership, practices, languages and life experience of ethnically and culturally diverse women and their families across the lifespan. We value operationalizing these experiences in our service settings, collaborative treatment planning, and the strategies we use to engage our communities.

In 2022, we lost a champion for mental health and wellness who walked among us in Alameda County with the passing of [Sally Zinman](#). Sally spent 45 years advocating for the rights of people with mental health challenges and led the call for client choice, hope, and self-determination through peer advocacy. We were privileged to share space with and learn from her here at ACBH. We want to take this time to recognize Sally as well as other women who have been [trailblazers in mental health](#).

*"I am woman phenomenally. Phenomenal woman, that's me."*-Maya Angelou, Poet

