



CJ Harmatz

Retired Occupational Therapist / Lean Process Improvement Practitioner

Now retired, CJ Harmatz began her career at MemorialCare in 1989 as a Resource Occupational Therapist serving all areas of the adult and children's hospital.

In 1991, she became the Supervisor for Occupational Therapy. A couple of years later, CJ became Manager for Inpatient Adult Rehabilitation when the department was restructured from having 13 different discipline directors to 4 product line managers (Inpatient, Outpatient, Memorial Hospital, and Skilled Nursing Rehab). Through her cost-effective, quality efforts, CJ was able to turn around the Inpatient Rehab unit – from losing over 1 million a year to making over a million a year. The artwork displayed in the Rehab unit lobby is a result of the Memorial Persons with Disability Art Contest that was organized by CJ.

In 2000, CJ became Executive Director of Senior Health Services and Integrative Wellness, growing the program to over 100 services offered to seniors as an affinity program to align new and current members to MemorialCare. During this time, the center received grants from the California Community Foundation for Caregiver Support and Archstone Foundation for Chronic Disease Management.

During her time with Senior Health and Integrative Wellness, CJ became Long Beach Memorial Medical Center's Government Relations Representative to further connect the medical center to the community and the government officials advocating for health care policy that better serves our hospitals and community. CJ is also a graduate of the 2002 MemorialCare Academy.

In 2008, CJ joined the Lean Resource Office to help re-engineer health care for cost effectiveness and quality through process improvements in the current health care system and delivery model. She believes strongly that the people working in health care are the ones that can find solutions to actually fix health care and the delivery model. Having the opportunity to break down silos and create functional working teams for the betterment of the patient is the best part of the job.

CJ's main focus is on point improvements. She has worked in Perioperative Services, Sterile Processing, Blood Bank, Central Processing, Pharmacy, Imaging, Central Supply, and various Nursing areas. CJ is also responsible for external learning and connecting the Lean Resource Office with outside facilities that utilize Lean principles. The partnership for learning includes such companies as Beckman, Alcon, and Boeing.

CJ has a Bachelor of Science in Occupational Therapy from Boston University. As an Occupational Therapist, she has worked in the full continuum of rehab care, including Inpatient, Outpatient, Skilled Nursing and Home Health. CJ specialized in Brain Injury & Stroke. Her professional purpose is to help individuals, organizations, and systems achieve their highest potential.

Prior employment includes Hebrew Rehabilitation for the Aged, Cedar-Sinai Medical Center, Visiting Nurses Association, and Head Injury Rehab Services. CJ also holds a California Health Insurance license specializing in Medicare.

CJ is very community oriented. She is known to CSULB through her involvement with the College of Business' Student Center for Professional Development since 2008. She has enjoyed working on refining the infrastructure of the program, as well as teaching professional development skills and being a mentor. CJ was the 2012-2013 SCPD Advisory Board Chair.

A member of the Leadership Long Beach Class of 2001, CJ served as Leadership Long Beach President from 2006-2007 and led the organization through some challenging financial and administrative times.

CJ has served as Early Childhood Education Chair for the Alpert Jewish Community Center, Charter Volunteer for the Aquarium of the Pacific providing educational services to visitors, Board Member of the Conservation Corps of Long Beach, and Board Member for Temple Israel Long Beach, where she was responsible for the development of the strategic plan.