



Biography:
Sandra Lew, LCSW
CEO, Hospice By The Bay



With 30 years in the health care field, and 15 of those in hospice care, Sandra Lew's April 2008 promotion to Hospice By The Bay CEO is well-earned. In the previous five years, she served as both Vice President of Clinical Operations and former Chief Operating Officer.

An LCSW, she has a passion for end-of-life care, and "allowing people to die with dignity — however they define a dignified death – on their terms."

In various leadership positions, Sandra has worked in the field of aging with Catholic Charities and On Lok Senior Health Services in San Francisco, Kaiser Permanente Medical Center's Hospice Services for the Oakland/Richmond Medical Centers, and Hospice by the Bay in San Francisco. Like many who choose to dedicate their professional lives to helping others, she values "finding ways to give back and contribute to society."

A social worker by training, her early experiences with death and dying came during the height of the AIDS epidemic in San Francisco. She says, "No social work training could have prepared me for that experience and the enormity of it all. I was trying to help people who were my age or a little older who were dealing with their mortality, loss of friends, reuniting with their families, and some who were struggling with their homosexuality with their families. At the same time, people I was working with were dying too. It was the closest to a war zone I will probably ever witness, and that just stays with you forever."

As a leader of Hospice, Sandra brings an important perspective and appreciation of cultural sensitivity and awareness. One of her leadership goals is to create strategies to connect Hospice with communities of color and to address their cultural perceptions about end-of-life care.

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