



Cal Hedigan, Chief Executive Officer



Cal Hedigan has dedicated her career to creating environments where people living with mental health concerns can live with dignity, access connection and community, and find allies who will support them in their journeys.

Cal joined Community Access in 1999 as Director of Policy and Program Evaluation, and subsequently served as Director of Corporate Compliance. From 2011 to July 2019, she worked as Community Access' Deputy CEO leading many agency initiatives including those focused on formalizing data analysis and measuring the impact of our work, program development, expanding participant health and wellness initiatives, and strengthening organizational systems to support our mission.

“After years of working in the field, I finally found a home when I came to Community Access in 1999,” Cal says. “I was drawn to the mission and philosophy of the agency because I too held a belief that all people are experts in their own lives. Over the years I have grown with the agency and have worked hard to realize this goal, shaping the

services we provide by listening to the voices of those that we serve. Our work will always be rooted in our commitment to human rights and self-determination, and as we grow and develop as an agency, our mission and values will continue to guide everything we do.”

Cal lives the Community Access ethos of health and wellness on a daily basis. Rain or shine, she can be spotted on her trusty folding bike going to meetings at any one of the agency's 23 locations. She has completed yoga and meditation teacher trainings and strives to live mindfully. Cal is also an avid cook and enjoys preparing meals that celebrate the healing properties of whole food.

Born in Wales to Irish parents, Cal began her work in the field of mental health in 1985 at the Richmond Fellowship in the UK, a non-hierarchical model where staff and participants live and work together in the community. Inspired by this experience, she went on to hold a variety of positions in residential mental health programs, working in case manager, intake coordinator, supervisor, and director roles. Prior to her tenure with Community Access, she worked as Director of Planning at the Bowery Residents' Committee in New York. Cal received her undergraduate degree from Brown University and completed graduate studies in social work at Hunter College. She is also a graduate of the National Council of Behavioral Health's Executive Leadership Program. Please feel free to contact Cal at chedigan@communityaccess.org.