

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

ALFRED M. ARENSDORF, M.D.

Al Arensdorf is a child and adolescent psychiatrist who has practiced in Hawaii, California, Washington, Vietnam, and New Mexico. He was educated at Loyola University of Los Angeles, UCLA, University of Washington, and University of Hawaii spanning college, medical school, residency and fellowship. Community mental health services for families and youth, including development and implementation of services, accountability, and planning, are the major themes of his professional career.

After serving as Maui's District Health Officer in 1998-99, he was recruited to the Medical Director position in the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Division of the Hawaii Department of Health. He retired as Medical Director of the CAMHD on November 1, 2005. He remains a clinical professor in the John A. Burns School of Medicine's Department of Psychiatry, teaching primarily in the residency programs on family and systems' interventions, prevention, and protective factors.

His interests in crisis counseling and mitigation of effects of trauma, violence, disasters (both of natural and human design), and war have led him into active involvement with disaster preparedness and volunteer membership in the American Red Cross. In September 2005, he volunteered for three weeks service in Texas in the wake of hurricane Katrina and ended up staying for the immediate week after hurricane Rita.

He is a Red Cross trainer in disaster mental health and in psychological first aid.

He is the 2004 recipient of the American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry's prestigious Rieger Service Program Award for Excellence for his work in Hawaii's system of care. In 2009, he received the Systems of Care Achievement Award of the AACAP Work Group on Community Systems of Care.

He has served on boards of many community non-profit organizations that provide crisis, substance abuse, or mental health services as well as serving in various roles with the Maui Mental Health Association, the State Mental Health Advisory Council, the Children's Advocacy Center, and many other community organizations.