

Kathleen O. O'Brien, Ph.D.

Kathleen O. O'Brien, Ph.D., is CEO of Walden/Sierra, Inc. a premier behavioral health organization serving Southern Maryland. She earned her Bachelor's and Master's degrees from the University of Maryland, and her doctorate in Clinical Psychology from LaSalle University.

Dr. O'Brien began her long association with Walden/Sierra in 1973, serving as the Clinical Director from 1978 to 1990, when she became the Executive Director. Her commitment and dedication have been a driving force in the development and expansion of a multi-service behavioral health organization that is respected throughout the State and has received national recognition.

Dr. O'Brien plays a prominent role in her community and throughout the State where she is a strong advocate for quality services for children and their families. She serves on numerous boards and commissions. She is a gubernatorial appointee on the State Drug and Alcohol Council, the Health and Human Services Referral Board and the State Victim Services Board. She serves on the Maryland Executive Council of AARP.

Additional local and state boards include the, Healthshare, Camp Maria Board, the Maryland Juvenile Justice Coalition and the MD. Network Against Domestic Violence. She has also served as a member of the National Council on Accreditation, the Child Welfare League of America Steering Committee and a subcommittee of the White House Drug policy council. Dr. O'Brien is the founding chairperson of the St. Mary's Family Violence Coordinating Council.

Dr O'Brien is a Weinberg Fellow and was a member of Leadership MD class of '08.

Dr. O'Brien was the 2008 recipient of the National Sunshine Peace Award, from the Buffet foundation in recognition of her outstanding work on behalf of Domestic Violence victims. In 2010, she received the Social Impact award from the Weinberg Foundation for her efforts to assist the homeless.

During the summer of 2013, Dr. O'Brien participated in the Harvard Business School Nonprofit Leadership Institute where she had the opportunity to work with nonprofit leaders from around the world

Dr. O'Brien has been married to her husband Paul for 38 years and they are the proud parents of six highly accomplished young adult children.