

Christopher Kennedy Lawford, Public Advocacy Consultant

In his most rewarding role to date, Christopher Kennedy Lawford is an advocate, for critical mental health issues facing our society today. His passion and commitment to the issues of substance abuse and mental health have reinvigorated the debate around these vital national concerns.

Mr. Lawford is a Public Advocacy Consultant for Caron Treatment Centers. On behalf of Caron, he shares his experience, strength and hope with clinicians, educators, families and treatment professionals.

In March 2009, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger appointed Mr. Lawford to the California Public Health Advisory Committee. The Public Health Advisory Committee provides advice and recommendations to California Director of Public Health on programs and policies to improve the health and safety of Californians and helps identify strategies to improve public health program effectiveness and identify emerging public health issues.

Born into political and movie royalty, Lawford successfully navigated these two worlds as an actor, author, and advocate. However, before his successes, Lawford battled a drug and alcohol addiction for much of his young life. Sober for more than 22 years, he shares his personal story with others in hopes of making a difference.

As the author of the New York Times bestseller *Symptoms of Withdrawal: A Memoir of Snapshots and Redemption*, Lawford illuminates his extraordinary life and the tragedies he has faced - offering a cohesive message of survival, hope, and inspiration. His experiences are powerful and his search for the truth courageous. He manages to blend his unique background and experience, offering up a rare and provocative view of his life and the worlds around him.

Lawford has worked extensively in politics, government and the non-profit sector as well as spending twenty years in the film and television business as an actor, lawyer, executive, and producer.

Lawford released his second book, *Moments of Clarity*, in January 2009. The book discusses his—and others'—"moments of clarity," when they experienced a dramatic shift in time and perception that launched them on the path from addiction to recovery. In May of 2009, Harper Collins will release his third book *Healing Hepatitis C*.

Lawford was born on March 29, 1955 in Santa Monica, California. He holds a Bachelor of Arts from Tufts University, a Juris Doctor from Boston College Law School and a Masters Certification in Clinical Psychology from Harvard Medical School where he gained an academic appointment as a Lecturer on Psychiatry.