

# CONNECTIONS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY

JULY, 1985

## A \$701 Million Budget Handed To Governor

A budget of \$701 million is being handed to the Governor as this issue goes to press. This is \$58 million greater than was requested by the Governor in his January 10th proposed budget. It represents the fiscal implications of extended policy discussions among mental health constituencies, the Assembly Select Committee on Mental Health and County Departments of Mental Health.

Governor Deukmejian's proposed budget included increases of \$40 million for local programs, \$10 million for local community replacements of state hospital beds and a \$14.6 million cost of living adjustment. The budget, as approved by the legislature, adds a

number of special programs: \$500,000 for self-help groups and a youth suicide prevention instructional program; \$25,000 for a task force to study long-term alternative uses of state hospitals; \$11.3 million to provide higher rates in board and care homes that are willing to provide better care and supervision to clients in need; \$20 million for a range of services to the homeless mentally ill; \$18 million for services to seriously emotionally disturbed children and their families; \$10 million to bring the lowest funded counties up toward equity; \$1 (one) million for mental health needs associated with AIDS; \$500,000 for peer counseling with the elderly.

One of the most difficult items on the budget concerned the Governor's proposal for additional programs tied to the reduction of state hospital utilization. The assembly version of the budget included \$5 (five) million for additional community programs but did not provide for reduction in state hospital utilization until 1986-87. It was this version that was adopted by the Conference Committee and sent to the Governor.

The Mental Health Budget, as a whole, demonstrates the Governor's continuing commitment to improving the care of the mentally ill and it is hoped that by the time this is received, he will have signed it into law.

## AB 2541: An Update

AB 2541 by Assemblyman Bronzan (D-Fresno) continues to move through the legislature gaining bipartisan support. The overall outlook for enactment is good, as Bronzan and representatives of the Administration work to iron out specific differences.

The bill, introduced in the legislature March 18, was first amended on May 9. At that time, the full provisions of SB 155 (Petris) were added to AB 2541. These provisions create a subsidy of the board and care rates for the mentally ill. This is needed to address the disparity between the rates for the mentally ill and the rates for the developmentally disabled.

With these amendments, the measure was first heard in the Assembly Health Subcommittee on Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities

on May 14. After hearing the support of many leaders of the mental health community, the subcommittee approved the bill on a unanimous 6-0 vote.

The next legislative hurdle came the following week when the subcommittee's action was ratified by the full Assembly Health Committee. This was also a unanimous, bipartisan vote.

AB 2541 is now before the Assembly Ways and Means Committee, where a hearing has tentatively been scheduled for June 19. Before the bill comes before this key budgetary committee, additional amendments will be offered to clarify the distribution of the money in the bill among the various counties.

Support for AB 2541 among key organizations, the media, and the

general public continues to grow. In fact, there is no known opposition to AB 2541. Nevertheless, because of its substantial cost (over \$58 million), AB 2541 must compete with the many other bills of significant cost. Demonstrating the scope of the problems in mental health and the need to act now will be the main challenge for Assemblyman Bronzan.

The many letters sent to the Governor by concerned individuals have

*continued on page 3*

**INSIDE:**  
*Legislative Update*  
 Page 2  
*CSS Listing*  
 Pages 4-5  
*Family Groups*  
 Pages 8-9

## An Informational Update

*This legislative analysis was prepared by MHA's Legislative Advocacy Committee. The Committee selects bills to investigate which they feel will have a major impact on mental health constituencies. This analysis includes a description of each bill followed by the Committee's recommendation for its support or opposition.*

### SENATE BILLS

**Senate Bill 155 (Petris) Amended 5/23/85**  
This bill is intended to improve the funding and the quality control of Board and Care facilities. It is high on the agenda of the California Alliance for the Mentally Ill and its language has been amended into AB 2541, the omnibus bill that has emanated from the Select Committee on Mental Health. Through the Select Committee process the necessary amendments are being negotiated.  
**Recommendation:** Support strongly in connection with AB 2541.

**Senate Bill 131 (Watson) Introduced 1/1/85**  
**Senate Bill 845 (Presley) Introduced 3/5/85**  
Senate Bill 845 has now passed the Senate and moved to the Assembly. It is intended to bring about an overall comprehensive mental health plan for the State of California which will have substance and lead to a better mental health program. Negotiations are underway with the Administration and Senator Presley's office to see if an acceptable compromise can be developed to avoid a gubernatorial veto while retaining a meaningful bill. Mr. Van Horn, Executive Director of the Mental Health Association, in Los Angeles has played a key role in instituting these discussions.  
**Recommendation:** Strongly support. We urge readers to write the Governor in support of this bill.

**Senate Bill 544 (McCorquodale) Introduced 2/25/85**  
This bill broadens the definition of conservatorships and should make it easier to place a chronic mentally ill person under a conservatorship.  
**Recommendation:** Support SB 544, but watch future amendments to this bill carefully.

**Senate Bill 786 (Seymour, et al) Introduced 3/5/85**  
Requires the allocation of all augmentation funds to be based upon an Index of Relative Need so that eventually funding will be equitable throughout the state for mental health programs. This bill has passed out of the Senate into the Assembly.  
**Recommendation:** Passively support.

**Senate Bill 822 (McCorquodale) Introduced 3/5/85**  
This bill will establish three pilot projects and the cost of \$500,000 each in Santa Clara, Sacramento, and Los Angeles Counties for the homeless mentally ill. This bill is presently in the Appropriations Suspense File. Bills in this status usually die.  
**Recommendation:** Benignly support.

**Senate Bill 902 (Robbins) Introduced 3/6/85**  
On initial reading, it was very difficult to ascertain the intent of this bill; however, upon talking to Senator Robbins' office and re-reading existing law, as well as proposed changes, it becomes apparent that lifetime waivers of coverage of mental health services are frequently requested and given. The required history of extensive usage of professional mental health services and the other limitations in the bill make it less likely that the waivers will be required; therefore, it is an improvement of insurance coverage for the mentally ill.  
**Recommendation:** Support with delight.

**Senate Bill 1054 (Lockyear) Introduced 3/7/85**  
This bill will set up a system to move violent offenders from the prison system to the mental health system at the termination of their sentence. It clearly states that amenability to treatment is not required for the person to be transferred. The Legislative Advocacy Committee feels strongly that we must oppose any bill which places people in mental institutions who are not amenable to treatment.  
**Recommendation:** Viciously oppose.

**Senate Bill 1078 (Greene, Presley and Seymour) Introduced 3/7/85**  
A similar bill, AB 454, has been introduced by Assemblyman Vicencia. These are im-

portant bills because they deal with the sharing of costs between the state and counties for Aid to the Families with Dependent Children-Foster Care Services. This is an important, but expensive program that has been the subject of a long-standing wrestling match between the state and counties as to which entity should bear the brunt of the cost. At the present time the state funds 95 percent of the program costs but only until January 1, 1987 at which time the state's share could become significantly less. Under these bills the 95 percent state cost would become a permanent state obligation. The solution of this issue can have a major impact on the quality and quantity of the foster care services throughout the state; however, your Public Information and Advocacy Committee feels that there are far more expert groups such as the Children's Lobby, CSAC, etc., involved in this issue that we should not get directly involved. Those members and other interested citizens with knowledge and/or concern about this matter may well want to get a copy of these bills and pursue it with the other groups.  
**Recommendation:** Benignly neglect.

**Senate Bill 1296 (McCorquodale) Introduced 3/8/85**  
This is another bill that could place prisoners in mental health institutions as a condition of parole with extension of their commitment to the mental institution for additional renewals for one year periods. Amendments to this bill confine its target population to mentally ill people in the prison system and specifically excludes disorders "manifested only by repeated criminal or otherwise anti-social behavior". Thus the bill is much improved and generally acceptable although we have some concern about the too-easy association of violence and the mentally ill.  
**Recommendation:** Neutrality.

**Senate Bill 1425 (Watson) Introduced 3/8/85**  
This bill was originally introduced at the behest of the Organization of the Mental Health Advisory Boards and its original version is deserving of support since it strengthened both the statewide and local mental health advisory board structures. However, a subsequent version of the bill carried a number of amendments which detracted greatly from the original bill and negotiations are presently underway to remove some of the noxious amendments. Therefore, we are not taking a position on this bill until such time as we know the outcome of these negotiations.  
**Recommendation:** Reserve judgement.

**ASSEMBLY BILLS**  
**Assembly Bill 105 (Brown) Amended 4/22/85**  
This is a new bill to our list, but not the Assembly, as you can tell by the number. It is Speaker Willie Brown's clean-up

legislation from his last year's children's legislation, AB 3632. That bill was an attempt to deal with the coordination of services to children who were educationally handicapped by mental illness. We are not yet ready to recommend a position on this bill since we are not yet clear as to whether or not the funds will be made available to undertake the directed program initiatives from the original bill or AB 105.  
**Recommendation:** Reserve judgment, watch carefully.

**Assembly Bill 375 (Tucker) Amended 4/8/85**  
This bill would require county mental health quality assurance systems that cover facilities serving conservatees involuntarily detained. As amended, we believe this bill should have a positive impact on the quality of care in residential facilities; therefore, we recommend its support in spite of the fact that there still may be an item or two that deserve amending.  
**Recommendation:** Support.

**Assembly Bill 1214 (Frizzelle) Amended 4/8/85**  
It is very difficult to ascertain the intent of this bill even after its thorough reading. It seems to require the State Department to assess where, how or why mental patients should be placed in state hospitals or other facilities. Its objective remains obscure.  
**Recommendation:** This is a bad bill and should die.

**Assembly Bill 1274 (Waters) Introduced 3/4/85**  
This bill provides a new definition of the handicapped for the California Fair Employment and Housing Act which includes the mentally ill within its protection from discrimination. From the point of view of our constituents, it deserves our strong support.  
**Recommendation:** Support.

**Assembly Bill 1963 (Klehs) Introduced 3/7/85**  
This bill will enact the California Expenditure Bond Act of 1986 which would send a bond issue to the voters to authorize an \$80 million bond issue for construction, reconstruction, remodeling replacement and deferred maintenance of county mental health facilities, should the voters approve. Considering the transient and dilapidated nature of many county mental health facilities we think this is an excellent proposal. It will, of course, require a great deal of work on all our parts to have it passed once it reaches the ballot.  
**Recommendation:** Vigorously support.

**Assembly Bill 1966 (Klehs) Introduced 3/7/85**  
This bill expands the non-discriminatory clauses in disability insurance and health care services plans to cover health conditions for disability status, thus adding protection for the mentally ill. We, therefore,

recommend that this bill be supported in a manner similar to AB 1274.  
**Recommendation:** Support.

**Assembly Bill 2181 (Bronzan) Introduced 3/8/85**  
As a two-year bill, there will be no formal action on this bill until January. Recent Federal Supreme Court rulings may improve the feasibility of this legislation.  
**Recommendation:** Enthusiastically support.

**Assembly Bill 2390 (Sterling) Amended 4/24/85**  
This bill sets up a demonstration research contract to establish a pilot program in Los Angeles county for conditional release of parolees with mental disorders. We believe this is a good bill since it has strong controls for parolees who otherwise would be released without treatment. It has been amended into AB 2541.  
**Recommendation:** Support in connection with AB 2541.

**Assembly Bill 2541 (Bronzan and Mojonier) Version of 5/22/85**  
This bill emanating from the Select Committee on Mental Health has, as predicted, undergone evolution since its introduction. Many of our problems and dilemmas with it have been resolved as well as those of other constituency groups. While this bill does not do everything that needs to be done, it is a very significant start and deserves our strong backing.  
**Recommendation:** Wholeheartedly support.

## AB 2541

*Continued From Page 1*

been effective in gaining and keeping his attention for this issue. Many more letters will be needed to demonstrate the depth of support for mental health across the state.

So that he may best respond to the bill, the Governor has directed his key representatives to meet with Assemblyman Bronzan and his staff to discuss AB 2541. To date, these meetings have been helpful in determining the main areas of agreement and disagreement. More meetings have been scheduled to work out the specific, detailed aspects of the legislation.

Assemblyman Bronzan is hopeful that these meetings will result in a bill that all sides can support. The Governor has often stated that mental health is one of his overall priorities. Coupled with the bipartisan support for the measure in the legislature, the chances for enactment of AB 2541 in some form are good.

## ARC Offers Aid In San Gabriel Region

"Admissions by San Gabriel Valley to Metropolitan State Hospital have been reduced by more than 50% as a result of the region's new Acute Residential Center (ARC)," says George Wolkon, Ph.D., regional director of the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health.

Wolkon describes ARC as an alternative treatment to hospitalization.

Located in El Monte, the ARC is a locked, skilled nursing facility which provides a special treatment program of acute psychiatric care for both voluntary and involuntary patients.

ARC's professional staff, consisting of three psychiatrists, three licensed social workers, a psychologist, a recreation therapist, registered nurses and mental health workers, are divided into three teams that treat the 45 patients at the Center.

"Since opening our doors on February 1, we have treated over 300 patients," says Susan Robbins, RN, Director of Nursing at ARC. "Ninety-nine percent of our patients are involuntary and placed at ARC by the Crisis Evaluation Unit (CEU)."

"Conservatorships are sought when deemed necessary by the treatment team," says Gary Hardwick, MA, Director of Staff Development and the clinical specialist for ARC.

"We feel proud that we have accepted patients that have been turned down by Metropolitan," says Kay Angeloni, RN, Executive Director of ARC. "We can provide nursing care that they can not."

Of the discharged 300 cases, fifty percent returned to their homes, twenty percent went to a long-term therapeutic center, sixteen percent were sent to an appropriate community care facility and four percent were released by the court.

"The ARC provides us with a centrally located facility. We have greater control of admissions to and a more coordinated after-care effort for the patients," says Wolkon. "ARC provides better continuity of care."

# Around The County With Community Support Services

Community Support Services are essential if persons disabled by persistent mental illness are to thrive in our communities. Without Community Support Services, long-term mentally ill adults would have few activities to fill the empty hours of their day, few opportunities to learn the skills they need to live independently and an increased chance of requiring in-patient hospital services.

Connections is printing this listing of community support services to keep our readers informed about existing programs in Los Angeles County. We realize that this listing is not comprehensive. We urge our readers to mail us information about community support programs not listed so that we can expand this directory in future issues of Connections.

## PROJECT RETURN CENTER

**Location:** 1328 Second Street, Santa Monica  
**Phone:** (213) 395-8886

**Area Served:** The North Coastal Region  
**Description:** Project Return Center is a social, educational and vocational center for persons labeled as "mentally ill". The Center is open Monday through Saturday, offering a full-schedule of classes, workshops and activities. The Center houses a thrift shop for the members and Center volunteers. There are no fees to participants. While the Center is located in Santa Monica, its program is open to anyone in Los Angeles County. Project Return Center is a program of the Mental Health Association in Los Angeles County.

## THE LONG BEACH ADULT SOCIALIZATION PROGRAM (L.B.A.S.P.)

**Location:** Bixby Park, 130 Cherry Avenue, Long Beach

**Phone:** (213) 591-7530

**Area Served:** The South Coastal Region  
**Description:** The Long Beach Adult Socialization Program offers social and educational activities for adults disabled by persistent mental illness who are living in the South Coastal area. Classes are taught in cooking, self-improvement, recreation and improvisational theatre. There is no fee to participants. LBASP is a program of the Mental Health Association in Los Angeles County.

## RIO HONDO MENTAL HEALTH CENTER DAY TREATMENT PROGRAM

**Location:** 17707 Studebaker Road, Cerritos  
**Phone:** (213) 402-0688

**Area Served:** Cerritos, Norwalk, Downey, Bellflower

**Description:** The day treatment program offers a series of activities for long-term mentally ill persons who are presently living independently or are striving toward independent living. Some of the services offered are an exercise program, creative writing workshops, occupational therapy and community skills groups. Outings are planned once a month or once every two months. The hours are Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to noon, Tuesdays from 1 to 4 p.m. and Fridays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. There is no fee to participants.

## THE COASTAL COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH CENTER DAY TREATMENT PROGRAM

**Location:** 747 E. 223rd Street, Carson  
**Phone:** (213) 518-6870

**Area Served:** The South Bay (Long Beach, Gardena, Torrance, Inglewood, Hawthorne, etc.)

**Description:** The Coastal Community Mental Health Center offers a day treatment program for persons disabled by persistent mental illness who have already been stabilized by medication. Examples of workshops offered are arts & crafts, independent living skills, vocational training and exercise. Counseling is provided through group therapy and one to one counseling. The program meets Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 9 a.m. to noon. Participants provide their own transportation. The fee is based on a sliding scale which is based on a participant's ability to pay.

## WESTSIDE COMMUNITY FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING, INC. (WCIL)

**Location:** 12901 Venice Blvd., Los Angeles  
1516 Cravens Avenue, Torrance

**Phone:** Los Angeles (213) 390-3611  
Torrance (213) 320-8920

For the Hearing Impaired (213) 398-9204  
**Area Served:** Coastal Region

**Description:** The Westside Community for Independent Living provides support services for people with physical disabilities or sensory impairments in an effort to help participants live independently. Some of the services offered by WCIL include accessible housing information, which offers up-to-date information about affordable and accessible housing; attendant recruitment and placement, for those persons whose disability leaves them incapable of performing simple, everyday chores; the teaching of basic independent living skills; vocational training; and counseling de-

signed to meet the needs of a disabled person. Wheelchair accessible transportation is available to and from the WCIL office for a fee of \$1 per one-way trip. The WCIL hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. WCIL's staff and Board of Directors are comprised mostly of disabled persons.

## B.R.I.D.G.E.S (Braswell Rehabilitation Institute for Development of Growth and Education Services)

**Location:** 1977 N. Gary, Suite 1, Pomona  
**Phone:** (714) 623-6653/4

**Area Served:** The San Gabriel, Santa Clarita and San Fernando Valleys

**Description:** B.R.I.D.G.E.S. offers transitional residential housing for persons disabled by severe mental illness. B.R.I.D.G.E.S. has 6 different housing locations: Pomona, Baldwin Park, El Monte (each with the capability of housing 36 residents) and Sylmar, Canoga Park, Lancaster (each with the capability of housing 18 residents). There is no fee to participants.

## W.O.R.C., INC. (Work Orientation and Rehabilitation Company, Inc.)

**Location:** 3903 N. Tyler Avenue, El Monte  
**Phone:** (818) 350-5751

**Area Served:** The San Gabriel Valley Region

**Description:** The W.O.R.C., Inc., a project of B.R.I.D.G.E.S., Inc., offers vocational training and related services to mentally ill adults. The training programs offered through W.O.R.C., Inc., are clerical, woodworking, food services and gardening. Potential students must be between the ages of 18 and 64, have a documented emotional disability, and be able to take care of their own personal needs (medication, transportation, etc.). Counselors provide vocational counseling and assist each student with their emotional needs. There are no fees to participants.

## I-CAN IN PASADENA

**Location:** 525 N. Lake Avenue, Pasadena  
**Phone:** (818) 577-2261

**Area Served:** The San Gabriel Valley Region. Transportation is provided for Alta Dena, Pasadena and South Pasadena residents.

**Description:** I-Can is a vocational and socialization program which provides day treatment for long-term mentally ill adults between the ages of 18 and 60. Training is offered in clerical skills and lawn care. There is usually one outing during the week and one on the weekend.

## THE SAN GABRIEL VALLEY RECREATIONAL COALITION (S.G.V.R.C.)

**Location:** 1750 Virginia Road, San Marino  
**Phone:** (818) 576-0784

**Area Served:** The San Gabriel Valley Re-

gion

**Description:** The S.G.V.R.C. is a socialization program which is open to persons who are clients in the mental health system. Because of the large number of participants, the Coalition's activities are only open to those who live within the San Gabriel Valley Region. AMI-San Gabriel Valley is one of the key sponsors of this organization which coordinates such activities as dances, an annual barbecue, the annual walk-a-thon, and Gifts for Giving. Twenty-eight other agencies are affiliated with the Coalition. There is no fee to participants although participants are sometimes asked to contribute towards the refreshments at activities.

## THE SOCIALIZATION TREATMENT CENTER

**Location:** The First United Methodist Church

3903 N. Tyler Avenue, El Monte  
**Phone:** (818) 444-0386

**Area Served:** The San Gabriel Valley Region

**Description:** The Socialization Treatment Center was designed to provide a psychosocial program for long-term mentally ill adults. Daily activities are offered to improve social relationships and basic living skills and to teach participants how to use community resources. Some of the activities offered by the Center are field trips, arts and crafts workshops, athletics and social get-togethers such as dances and parties. Psychiatric intervention and medication monitoring are also available for those in need, as well as vocational preparation and retraining. There is no fee to participants.

## THE SAN FERNANDO VALLEY MENTAL HEALTH CENTER

**Location:** 6740 Kester Avenue, Van Nuys  
**Phone:** (818) 988-8050

**Area Served:** The San Fernando Valley Region

**Description:** SFMHC's Vocational Services are designed to help long-term mentally ill adults move toward independent living and vocational competency. Work activity settings and groups provide the core of this program with an emphasis on vocational, life and social skills, and personal problem solving. Potential participants must be 18 years of age or older with a desire and the potential to move into independent living in the community with vocational competency. The average length of participation in the Vocational Services program is from four to six months. SFMHC's Socialization Center is set-up to reduce social isolation, increase social skills and social support relationships for long-term mentally ill persons. The Center offers such services as recreational activities, interest and friendship groups, and community meetings as ways of helping long-term mentally ill persons move into the

mainstream of society. These services are provided through a structured program and a drop-in center. This program is especially for those persons living in community care residential facilities. The Center's hours are Mondays from 6 to 9 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1 to 4 p.m.

## THE DORIS FOSTER INDEPENDENT LIVING CENTER

**Location:** 6740 Kester Avenue, Van Nuys  
**Phone:** (818) 988-8050

**Area Served:** The San Fernando Valley Region

**Description:** The Doris Foster Independent Living Center is a semi-supervised ten unit apartment complex which houses 20 emotionally disabled adults. Residents of the Center live in a roommate type situation where they can share all household responsibilities. Residents are taught basic living skills in preparation for independent living within the community. The length of the average stay is from six months to one year.

## SATELLITE HOUSING PROGRAM OF USC ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM

**Location:** USC Alternatives Program, 2611 S. Portland Street, Los Angeles, CA 90007

(mailing address)

**Phone:** (213) 743-8527

**Area Served:** The Central Region

**Description:** The Satellite Housing Program places long-term mentally ill persons who qualify in individual apartments around Central region. This is not an apartment complex or a housing center. The apartments used for placements usually have two bedroom, two baths and can house four long-term mentally ill adults who live together as roommates. Staff visit each residence weekly and on an "as needed" basis for individual and group counseling sessions. All participants must be referred from another agency, be maintained on medication and have some type of daytime activity. The cost for the program is the participant's portion of the rent and utilities. USC Alternative Program holds the lease on the satellite apartments.

## THE RAKESTRAW COMMUNITY EDUCATION CENTER OF THE WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**Location:** 5139 S. Main Street, Los Angeles  
**Phone:** Church (213) 231-9321

Agency (213) 232-2258

**Area Served:** The Central Region

**Description:** The Rakestraw Center serves the Central Region and was founded as an attempt to effectively help members of the community in crisis situations through direct assistance, advocacy, counseling or providing information. The Center offers basic education, emergency food, housing and welfare advocacy, and para-legal assistance among its services. The Center has programs Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

## THE COMMUNITY LIVING PROGRAM

**Location:** Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health

2415 W. Sixth Street, Los Angeles

**Phone:** (213) 620-2007 (main office)

(213) 460-4246 (training apartment)

**Area Served:** The Central Region

**Description:** The Community Living Program (CLP) offers training in independent living skills and assistance to residents of community care facilities who feel ready to move into their own apartments. Individuals applying for the program must go through a set evaluation period, be eligible for mental health services in the Central Region, have their own transportation, have a desire for independent living, have some monthly income, and be a minimum of 18 years of age. CLP encourages persons who complete the program to move into apartments in groups of two. In this way, the qualified trainees can share expenses and have a built-in support group.

## KEDREN COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH CENTER

**Location:** 710 E. 111th Place, Los Angeles  
**Phone:** (213) 777-1411

**Area Served:** The Central Region

**Description:** The Department of Community Outreach Services of Kedren Community Mental Health Center provides services which are meant to enhance and promote mental health in the community and to assist persons who are not reached by traditional mental health treatment services. Some of these services include a drug abuse/education program, basic mental health education, stress reduction, consultation and training.

## PORTALS HOUSE

**Location:** 269 S. Mariposa Avenue, Los Angeles

**Phone:** (213) 386-5393

**Area Served:** The Central Region

**Description:** Portals House is a residential, vocational and socialization center for persons labeled "mentally ill." The Transitional Residence Program is a 14-bed program where clients may live for up to 120 days in one of the two houses on Portals' premises. The Satellite Apartment Program is a two-year, semi-independent living program where two clients live in an apartment subleased by Portals. Roommates share all household and financial responsibilities. Both programs provide staff supervision, counseling and 24-hour staff on call daily. Portals' vocational program offers work adjustment and volunteer placement. There are three Activity Centers, located at Portals and in the Hollywood and Crenshaw areas, which offer social and recreational activities primarily to board and care residents in these areas. The Social Club provides social and recreational activities on weekends, evenings and holidays. There is no fee to participants.

# LAC/AMI Opens Office In Pasadena

The Los Angeles County Alliance for the Mentally Ill (LAC/AMI) recently opened its first office and its first centralized informational/referral service. In the past, LAC/AMI, which has quadrupled its membership in the last three years, operated out of individuals' homes throughout the county.

LAC/AMI's new office is located at the Pasadena Guidance Clinics and was made available through the courtesy of Dr. Susan Mandell, Director of the Clinic. The office, which is staffed by volunteers, is supervised by Beverly Samples, President of the San Gabriel Valley AMI.

LAC/AMI's volunteer office staff answer incoming calls, help callers locate needed services and mail out requests for information. Currently, the Pasadena office is open all day on Tuesday and Thursday; part-time on Monday, Wednesday, Friday; and on Tuesday evenings. The goal is to keep the office and phones open all day, every day, but to reach that goal, more volunteers are needed.

LAC/AMI affiliates offer family members support, education and information. Support is provided through caring and sharing groups which help members cope with the impact of mental illness by meeting other families who have suffered the same tragedy, by learning that they are not alone, and by talking about their experience with others who really understand.

At regular AMI meetings, families learn about the mental health system, available resources, their role as partners in treatment, and placement plans for their family member. Families are encouraged to educate their own elected officials about basic unmet needs.

The common goal of all AMI groups is to improve the quality of life for the mentally ill citizens of California through individualized care and treatment; upgraded, decent housing; reduction of stigma; and increased funding for research to find a cure for schizophrenia and affective disorders.

LAC/AMI is affiliated with the California Alliance for the Mentally Ill (CAMI), with an office in Sacramento, representing 58 groups statewide, and with the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI), based in Arlington, Virginia, with 500 affiliates located in all fifty states.

Persons interested in volunteering at the LAC/AMI office are encouraged to apply to Jo Dennison, Coordinator of Volunteers. For more information, referrals, requests for LAC/AMI brochures (singly or in bulk) and volunteer applications, call the LAC/AMI office at (818) 441-0208.

## Families Helping Families

*The following is a listing of the Alliance for the Mentally Ill (AMI) affiliates and other family self-help groups in Los Angeles county. Included in the listing are the day, time and location of meetings as well as hot line phone numbers that families can call during times of crisis. Family groups preceded by an asterisk (\*) are AMI affiliates.*

**\* LOS ANGELES/ALLIANCE FOR THE MENTALLY ILL**  
General Information and Referral  
66 Hurlbut Street, No. 211  
Pasadena, CA 91105  
(818) 441-0208

**ANTELOPE VALLEY**  
Contact Person: Virginia Schmidt  
Phone: (805) 947-7348  
Meeting: Second Tuesday, 7 p.m.  
Location: Antelope Valley Health Foundation, 44714 N. 10th Street, West, Lancaster

**\*BEACH CITIES**  
Contact Person: Gini Widmann  
Phone: (213) 376-6120  
Meeting: Second Wednesday, 10 a.m.  
Location: Medical Emergency Building, 19000 Hawthorne Blvd., No. 302, Torrance

**CANOGA PARK**  
Contact Person: Beth Morrison  
Phone: (818) 709-2211  
Meeting: Every Thursday, 6:15 p.m.  
Location: West San Fernando Valley, Mental Health Services, 9045 Canoga Avenue, Canoga Park

**EAST LOS ANGELES**  
Contact Person: Concha Barrio  
Phone: (213) 725-1337  
Meeting: Third Wednesday, 6:15 p.m. (Spanish)  
Location: El Centro Mental Health Center, 972 S. Goodrich Blvd., Los Angeles

**\*EAST SAN GABRIEL VALLEY**  
Contact Person: Elsie Redline  
Phone: (818) 337-7439  
Meeting: Fourth Thursday, 7:30 p.m.  
Location: First United Methodist Church, Corner of Glendora Ave. and Hill Street, La Puente

**\*GLENDALE**  
Contact Person: Helen Esquivel  
Phone: (213) 257-6041  
Meeting: First Tuesday, 7 p.m.  
Location: Verdugo Mental Health Center, 417 Arden Avenue, Glendale

**HOLLYWOOD**  
Contact Person: Lisa Song  
Phone: (213) 669-1060  
Meeting: Every Monday, 6 p.m.  
Location: Hollywood Mental Health Services, 4759 Hollywood Blvd., Hollywood

**\*INGLEWOOD**  
Contact Person: Marty Meizner  
Phone: (213) 412-2291  
Meeting: Third Wednesday, 7 p.m.  
Location: First Nationwide Savings, 425 S. La Brea Avenue, Inglewood

**\*LONG BEACH**  
Contact Person: Frances Ashurst  
Phone: (213) 430-4298  
Meeting: First Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.  
Location: First Church of the Brethren, 3332 N. Magnolia Avenue, Long Beach

**\*LOS ANGELES**  
Contact Person: Don Richardson  
Phone: (213) 391-2823  
Meeting: Second Thursday, 2:30 p.m.  
Location: Thaliens Community Mental Health Center, 8730 Alden Drive, Los Angeles

**LOS ANGELES**  
Contact Person: Sumio Matsuda  
Phone: (213) 664-3926  
Meeting: First and Third Thursday, 6:30 p.m. (Japanese)  
Location: Asian Pacific Center, 3407 W. Sixth Street, No. 510, Los Angeles

**MONTEREY PARK**  
Contact Person: Po Lin Han  
Phone: (818) 289-5235  
Meeting: To be arranged (Chinese)

**NORTH HOLLYWOOD**  
Contact Person: Ofelia Bernier  
Phone: (818) 985-6550  
Meeting: Every Monday, 6 p.m.  
Location: East San Fernando Valley Mental Health Services, 12148 Victory Blvd., North Hollywood

**\*NORWALK**  
Contact Person: Florence Baumier  
Phone: (213) 728-3222  
Meeting: Second Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.  
Location: Rio Hondo Mental Health Center, 17707 Studebaker Road, Cerritos

**\*POMONA**  
Contact Person: Grace Smith  
Phone: (714) 624-2549  
Meeting: First Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.  
Location: Claremont Presbyterian Church, 1111 N. Mountain Avenue, Claremont

**\*SAN GABRIEL VALLEY**  
Contact Person: Beverly Samples  
Phone: (818) 441-0208  
Meeting: Second Friday, 7:30 p.m.  
Location: San Marino Community Church, 1750 Virginia Road, San Marino

**\*SAN PEDRO, HARBOR VIEW HOUSE**  
Contact Person: Pat Bass  
Phone: (213) 519-6101  
Meeting: Every Monday, 7:15 p.m.  
Location: San Pedro Neighborhood Facility, 769 E. Third Street, No. 204, San Pedro

**\*SOUTH BAY**  
Contact Person: Margaret Walker  
Phone: (213) 377-8609  
Meeting: Third Monday, 7:30 p.m.  
Location: First Christian Church, 2930 El Dorado Street, Torrance

**\*SOUTHEAST**  
Contact Person: Ann Marie McCune  
Phone: (213) 321-3799  
Meeting: Second and Fourth Wednesday, 5:30 p.m.  
Location: Augustus Hawkins Mental Health Center, 1720 E. 120th Street, No. 1169, Los Angeles

**\*SOUTHWEST**  
Contact Person: Pearl Coleman  
Phone: (213) 299-3680  
Meeting: Fourth Tuesday, 6:30 p.m.  
Location: Crenshaw Family YMCA, 3820 Rosalia Drive, Second Floor, Los Angeles

**\*VAN NUYS**  
Contact Person: Lorna Goodman  
Phone: (818) 988-8050  
Meeting: First and Third Wednesday, 8 p.m.  
Location: San Fernando Valley Community Mental Health Center, 6740 Kester Avenue, Van Nuys

**\*WESTSIDE & COASTAL FRIENDS**  
Contact Person: Susan Dempsay  
Phone: (213) 395-8886  
Meeting: Third Thursday, 7:30 p.m.  
Location: Project Return Center, 1328 Second Street, Santa Monica

# Diagnostic Conference Brings Ideas Together

More than 100 school and clinical psychologists from the greater Los Angeles area recently participated in the Third Annual Conference on the Identification, Assessment and Treatment of Seriously Emotionally Disturbed (SED) Children, held at the State Diagnostic School for Neurologically Handicapped Children on May 8, 1985.

The purpose of the annual conference, which is co-sponsored by the State Diagnostic School, the San Gabriel Valley Region of the County Department of Mental Health and its Regional Citizens' Liaison Committee (RCLC), is to increase cooperation and information-sharing between educational and mental health professionals in the community.

According to Dr. Terry J. Tibbetts, a clinical child psychologist and chairman of the San Gabriel Valley RCLC, the conference grew out of concerns that mental health professionals and educators often spoke a different language when discussing the emotionally disturbed child.

"As mental health professionals, we often use the words 'emotionally disturbed' much differently than educators," stated Dr. Tibbetts. "By contrast, educators have a much more structured and limited definition for this term which arises from criteria set forth in PL 94-142, an educational law guaranteeing educational services to this population."

The conference was developed as a way to ensure that educators and clinicians had an opportunity to communicate and be exposed to each others' philosophies, definitions and points of view.

Dr. Tibbetts, who has just been nominated as Chairperson-elect for the Children's Citizens Advisory Committee (CCAC) of the Department of Mental Health's Children and Youth Services Bureau, added that the conferences have become even more crucial this year because of the passage of AB 3632, which mandates Department of Mental Health intervention for ser-

iously emotionally disturbed children when deemed necessary by the school team responsible for developing such children's Individualized Educational Programs (IEPs).

"Now, more than ever," stated Dr. Tibbetts, "it is critical for educators and mental health professionals to learn each others' language and to coordinate efforts to serve the comprehensive needs of emotionally disturbed children."

Preparations are already underway for the 1986 conference, which is tentatively planned to include a greater in-depth look at art therapy interventions with emotionally disturbed persons, behavioral therapy, and clinical interviewing skills for the school psychologist. It is anticipated that the conference will continue to be a growing product of professional needs in this area. Dr. Tibbetts pointed out that almost 200 requests for attendance at last month's conference were rejected.

"We simply ran out of room," Tibbetts explained. "For next year, we are currently exploring a number of ways to increase the capacity of the conference."

Some of the options under consideration include shifting the conference across the street to the California State University at Los Angeles (CSULA) campus or having the Children and Youth Services Bureau place the conference under their co-sponsorship.

"What is most evident," concluded Tibbetts, "is that the area in which education and mental health interface with the seriously emotionally disturbed population is not widely understood. Clinicians and educators are both looking for ways in which they can gain a greater knowledge and understanding in this critical area."

Professionals interested in being placed on a priority registration list for next year's conference, which is open to all mental health and educational professionals and is free of charge, are invited to write Dr. Terry Tibbetts at the State Diagnostic School, 4339 State University Dr., Los Angeles, CA 90032.

# SPECIAL REFERRAL ISSUE

Postmaster: Send address changes to:  
930 Georgia St., Los Angeles, CA 90015

Copy for *Connections* should reach the  
newsletter by the 10th of the month  
prior to publication.

Executive Director: Richard Van Horn

The Mental Health Association in Los  
Angeles County is a non-profit, volun-  
tary organization dedicated to the pro-  
motion of mental health, prevention of  
mental illness and the improved care  
and treatment of mentally ill persons.  
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Published by the Mental Health  
Association in Los Angeles County.

Staff: Linda Morris, Ann Stone

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