

CONNECTIONS

THE PUBLICATION OF THE MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY

APRIL 1984

Support for delay in implementing AB 2381 grows as Task Force asks for bipartisan approach

SENATE FOLLOWS ASSEMBLY, TO STUDY MENTAL HEALTH SYSTEM

INTERVIEW:

DR. FLOYD MARTINEZ

L.A. County Department
of Mental Health



"One of the tragedies I've seen in California is that issues surrounding or pertaining to mental health are too politicized," says Floyd H. Martinez, Ph.D.

"The basic decisions about who pays for what in mental health are based more on politics than on what the minimum requirements

"Mental illnesses are cyclical while programs are linear ... and this tends to create gaps in the array of services."

of the system are," he says.

As assistant director of the newly formed Bureau of Planning, Development and Quality Assurance for the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health, Martinez has the experience in numerous fields and localities to carry him through.

Martinez came to Los Angeles from Colorado where he was county director of mental health. The

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Senator Dan McCorquodale (D-San Jose) has announced that the California Senate Subcommittee on Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Genetic Diseases, which he chairs, will hold hearings on the mental health system beginning this fall, with the idea of presenting new legislation.

The announcement came at a report meeting of the Mental Health Task Force on AB 2381, part of Senator Diane Watson's District Health Advisory Committee.

Held in Watson's district, the meeting was attended by Watson (D-Los Angeles); McCorquodale; Assemblywoman Sunny Mojonier (R-San Diego), author of AB 2381; Dr. Michael O'Connor, state director of mental health; Mark Slavkin, representing Assemblyman Bruce Bronzan (D-Fresno), chairperson of the Assembly Select Committee on Mental Health; and Mabeline Griffin, representing Los Angeles County Supervisor Kenneth Hahn.

At the meeting, the task force distributed its final 41-page report along with its 27 recommendations, the most overriding of which is "against the implementation of the mental health initiative at this time as embodied in AB 2381."

The report reads in part, "The task force suggests that the Administration wait to propose any substantial revision of the current mental health system in order to allow the Assembly Select Committee on Mental Health to receive input from mental health experts, the public and the mental health community over a more adequate time frame, in order to allow a careful assessment of the impact of any major changes needed.

"The task force further encourages the Governor's office to provide a liaison to participate in the study and planning of the Select Committee to ensure that both the legislative and executive branches of government take part in the assessment and development of major public policy reform issues in the mental health field."

In his comments on the report, McCorquodale commended the Task Force and said he supported delaying AB 2381 for a year.

"The legislature has been dealing with mental health on a piecemeal basis," he said. "Money never followed clients from the hospital to the community; money needs to precede them. Moving quickly would represent another piecemeal approach."

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BOARD CONSIDERS ONE DEPARTMENT FOR CHILDREN

In early April, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors will be deliberating whether children's services, now provided by three separate departments, should be consolidated into a single department, to be called the Children's Services Department.

Hearings on the proposed consolidation were held the last week in March.

"The separation of children's services into a single department is long overdue," said Supervisor Edmund Edelman, a major advocate of the plan. "There is a clear consensus that preventing child abuse and neglect should be one of government's most important priorities. Children trapped in violent homes are among those 'truly needy' who need government to help them because they cannot help themselves.

"According to (Harry Hufford) the county's chief administrative officer," continued Edelman, "we can consolidate all children's service functions into a single department without increasing costs to taxpayers. Furthermore, a single department, devoted to protecting children, would also marshal community support and resources.

"Any move to consolidate efforts would enhance our ability to work with those who have suffered abuse and their families," said Rose Jenkins, M.D., director of the Bureau of Children and Youth Services for the county Department of Mental Health.

"We have a good relationship with the Child Protection Service and the Department of Social Services. Our relationship can only be enhanced with solidification," said Jenkins.

"With consolidation and a requirement from the Board of Supervisors that all who

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METRO EDUCATION SERIES BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND

For the second time, Metropolitan State Hospital and Alliance for the Mentally Ill, Norwalk, will offer an informational lecture/discussion series for families of the mentally ill.

The free, six-part series will be held on Thursdays from April 26 to May 31 at 7:30 p.m. in the hospital's James Hall, 11400 Norwalk Blvd., Norwalk.

"The series gives relatives information about mental illness and the mental health system and about how to negotiate the system," said Pearl B.

SINGLE PARENTS MAKE CONNECTION

The number of single parent families has doubled since 1970, rising to 6.6 million, according to the 1980 census. One in five families is a single parent family.

"The incidence and needs of one-parent families continue to increase disproportionately to the resources and services available, resulting in a complex and highly stressful situation for single parents and their children," said Marilyn Nelson, M.S.W.

The Single Parent Connection was started in 1981 by the non-profit Focus Center for Education and Development in Panorama City "to assist one-parent families in forming self-help support groups, enabling them to meet their emotional, recreational, economic and educational needs as they see and define them," said Nelson, coordinator of the program.

According to Nelson, the goals of the Single Parent Connection include increasing the self-esteem of single parents, improving communication between parent and child, and forming a self-help support system between group members.

The first of the Single Parent Connection's three components is a 15-week self-help support group. It meets two hours a week, and child care is provided. A \$2 donation per meeting is requested to cover costs, but no one is turned away because of lack of funds.

"It provides parent education relevant to the one-parent family, discusses the special stresses on the single parent family, provides referrals to community services and facilitates the sharing of resources and support among the group members," Nelson said.

A network/advisory group of "graduates" from the self-help groups is the program's second component. Its purpose is to develop a continuing social and educational network, and the group has monthly activities.

The newest part of the program is the Kiddie Connection, offering emotional support and counseling by student interns for children of persons in the program.

The self-help groups are currently meeting. For information on days and times, contact Nelson at (213) 989-4175.

REGION TO HONOR MEDIA APRIL 27

Members of the news media will be honored at the San Gabriel Valley Mental Health Region's annual legislative breakfast.

The April 27 breakfast, for presenting mental health concerns to local legislators, will kick off the region's activities for "May is Mental Health Month." It will be held at the Industry Hills and Sheraton Resort, City of Industry.

Los Angeles Times reporter William Overend, Los Angeles Herald Examiner editorial writer Ed Fishbein and

Scherr, L.C.S.W., Metropolitan's community liaison representative.

"Schizophrenia," the opening session, will contain discussion on the patient's inner experience, causes, treatment and prognosis. It will be led by Jon Heiser, M.D.

Heiser will also lead the May 3 session on "Manic-Depressive Disorders and Other Psychoses," which will include definitions, causes, treatment and prognosis.

Christopher S. Amenson, Ph.D. will present "Surviving and Thriving with a Mentally Ill Relative" on May 10.

The May 17 session, led by Anna Nieto-Gomez, M.S.W., will be "The LPS (Lanterman-Petris-Short) Law and Patients' Rights," with information on involuntary treatment, court hearings and what families can do.

"Conservatorship Issues," including the family's role and conservator power, will be discussed by Eva M. Hardy, M.D., and Bob Baldwin, M.S.S.W., on May 24.

The series will end on May 31 with "Planning for Hospital Discharge-Community Placements," focusing on family participation, aftercare and SSI (Supplemental Security Income). It will be presented by Robin Thomas, L.C.S.W., and Pearl B. Scherr, L.C.S.W.

The series is being offered a second time due to response and requests from persons attending the first one. Last fall's series had an average attendance per session of 82 persons, with relatives of mentally ill persons making up 85 percent of the participants.

The series is open to all interested person, who may attend selected sessions or the entire series. Pre-registration is not necessary. For further information, contact Scherr at (213) 863-7011.

METROPOLITAN ADDS NEW UNITS IN ADMISSIONS PROGRAM CHANGE

Metropolitan State Hospital in Norwalk will initiate a new admissions program in May, adding two admissions units.

Persons involuntarily admitted to the hospital will no longer be assigned to an acute unit following the admissions procedure, but will first go to an admissions unit.

This change is being made to "more effectively address issues unique to the admissions process," according to a study on the program. It will "combine services in areas performing similar functions and enhance our ability to evaluate our patients and provide the appropriate level of care," said Bill Silva, coordinator of admissions.

Silva said the new program will have intensive assessment and evaluation, crisis intervention and low patient-therapist ratios "so they (patients) can get the intensive care they need for that initial period of time." It will also have the function of completing "the legal issues as quickly and appropriately as possible."

Among the admissions procedures this program specifically addresses are the legal issues of probable cause hearings and writs

of habeas corpus. Under the law, all involuntary patients certified for 14 days must have a probable cause hearing within four days of hospitalization to determine if they meet the criteria for 14 day certification. Any patient may request a writ of habeas corpus.

Staff on the admissions units will be specially trained in the legal and forensic issues, as well as in assessment and crisis intervention.

"A lot of (hospital) staff have no interest in forensic issues. They see themselves strictly as clinicians," said Ernest Klatter, M.D., Metropolitan's executive director. Up until now, staff members, who are not trained in forensic issues, Klatter said, have been required to provide documentation at the probable cause hearing.

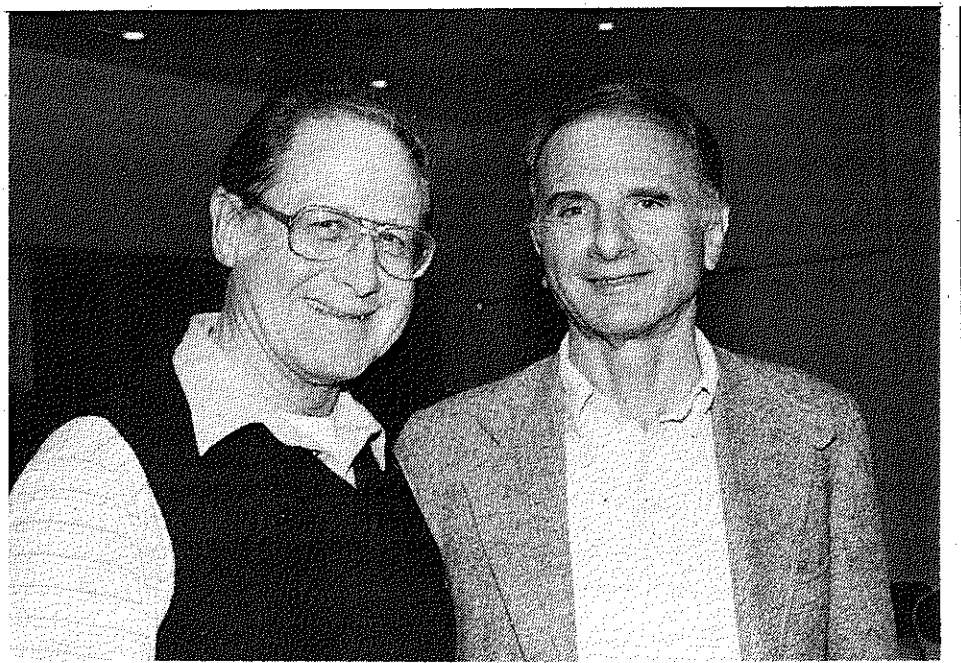
Under the new program, probable cause hearings will take place on the admissions units. Admissions units staff will be trained to document appropriateness for the 14-day certification and to present information to hearing officers at the probable cause hearings, and also to present information to judges at writ hearings, according to Klatter.

The new program will give other units more time to "deal with some long-term treatment that sometimes gets interrupted by court procedures," Silva said.

"We are going to make sure that patients that go to acute units have gone through the legal issues so staff can devote themselves primarily to treatment," Klatter said.

This program will not affect penal code, drug abuse, geriatric, voluntary or conservatorship patients.

From the admissions units, patients will either be transferred to an acute unit or be discharged, depending on the outcome of the probable cause hearing and/or their mental condition as defined in the involuntary commitment law.



Alliance for the Mentally Ill-Los Angeles president Don Richardson with Los Angeles County Supervisor Edmund Edelman.

PARENTS PREMIERE VIDEOTAPE ON BETTER FAMILY INTERACTION

Alliance for the Mentally Ill-Los Angeles will present the premiere showing of a videotape on a behavioral family management rehabilitation program.

The screening will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 12, in the plaza level auditorium of Thaliens Community Mental Health Center, 8730 Alden Drive, Los Angeles.

The videotape is based on a research study, "Drug-Psychosocial Treatment Interactions: Comprehensive Rehabilitation for Chronic Schizophrenics," by Robert Liberman, M.D.

Liberman, world-known research psychiatrist in schizophrenia, behavior therapy and community mental health, is director of the Mental Health Clinical Research and Training Center for the Study of Schizophrenia at

Camarillo State Hospital and director of the Rehabilitation Research Training Center on Mental Illness at the Brentwood Veterans Administration Medical Center.

At the screening, Liberman will introduce the program and give background information on the research findings demonstrated in the videotape.

Tom Backer, Ph.D., writer and producer of the tape, will discuss objectives in producing the videotapes. Backer recently received a first place award for producing videotapes of research projects on treating chronic mental illness.

This training tape for professionals illustrates techniques for better family interaction with mentally ill members, including positive feedback, problem solving and less destructive negative interactions.

AMI-Los Angeles members Don and Peggy Richardson; therapist Gayla Blackwell, M.S.W.; and actor Steve Nichols are featured in the videotape and are shown participating in the program as it is explained. The Richardsons and their son went through the program for nine months.

"The treatment model in Dr. Liberman's drug-psychosocial treatment paper is the model we have found helpful in maintaining a fairly consistent stability for our son," said Don Richardson. "The ingredients of this model are simple but essential: a maintenance drug program, support network, social outlets, family involvement and a positive relationship with a therapist."

"A program to help family members react more positively to the irritability and inappropriate behavior of the mentally ill family member helps to reduce the vicious cycle that is so damaging to the patient's support network. We have learned that our negative reaction generated by the difficult behavior pattern of a schizophrenic only exacerbates the symptoms of the illness."

"The therapist is a key underpinning to the program. The therapist functions as a referee, an integrator of maintenance medication, as a problem solving teacher, as a doctor and as a respected friend."

"This is an opportunity to get a preview of a film showing methods we believe will be helpful in working day to day with the mentally ill. We actually go through the technique in the tape," Richardson said. "We're hoping everyone working with the mentally ill will be interested in this technique. It can be applied to board and care homes, hospitals, crisis intervention and family members at home."

There is no fee for this premiere. Parking is available on the Thaliens' parking level off Alden Drive.

MONEY FOR NEW PROGRAMS STIRS BLOCK GRANT CONTROVERSY

A proposal for the distribution of federal block grant monies has raised concern among community mental health center directors and mental health groups.

State Department of Mental Health staff have recommended to director Dr. Michael O'Connor that he consider dispersal of the \$750,000 (an estimated \$500,000 would come to Los Angeles County) with the solicitation of proposals for time-limited projects.

O'Connor is still making up his mind on the "Request For Proposal" plan of disbursing the block grant monies in small discretionary grants.

According to Dr. Steve Shon, deputy director of clinical services for the state Department of Mental Health, O'Connor will be meeting with staff members for the next couple of weeks to discuss the proposal.

According to Lila Berman, legislative liaison of the Citizen's Advisory Council, "Community Mental Health Centers (CMHCs) have been receiving federal dollars through Alcohol, Drug Abuse and Mental Health Block Grants since Ronald Reagan first came in.

"The first dollars to California (received about three years ago) were cut by about 20 percent and all CMHCs took at least a 16 percent cut," said Berman. "The agreement was that if in some years there was an increase, the dollars would go to increase center funding to make up for the loss in the original cut."

Now there is a change in attitude. O'Connor is reportedly making up his mind on the Request for Proposal (RFP) grants which would be handled like 314D grants, small grants to develop innovative programs.

"Reviewing this proposal is an effort to look at all the possibilities there are with the funding that is available. It is not a conscious change in the direction of funding but a look at what the possibilities are. Up to this point that's all it's been," said Shon.

"We received input from other organizations and small and medium size counties and private non-profit agencies who would like some kind of new money to start a program."

According to Shon, the RFP grants would be one time only funding for one, two or three years. "It is not a continuing allocation forever. It is one time but could be for more than a year. A lot depends on whether money continues to flow from Washington."

Priority projects for the small discretionary funding would be those involving the deaf and hearing impaired, homeless mentally ill, coordination efforts for regionalized programs, children's projects with local health and school districts, Southeast Asians, brain damaged persons and their families and training in geriatric psychiatry.

Critics of the plan point out that these discretionary grants would only be available for one year as the block grant is to be decreased next year. A CAC position paper reads, "One-time funding through the RFP process is cumbersome, difficult to use and not cost-effective. It is imperative that we look at a total system of services, not little patchwork, uncoordinated pieces here and there."

Smaller counties see value in the RFP process, especially as a way of seeking money they otherwise would not receive and since the CMHCs are primarily located in the urban areas of larger counties.

Interagency, an organization of 39 member agencies from throughout Los Angeles County, was unanimous in its opposition of the RFP process and its conviction that block grant money be allocated to existing centers in the state.

"Los Angeles County currently receives a significant portion of the

limited block grant allocation for ADM (alcohol, drug abuse and mental health)," wrote Norman C. Cottman Jr., Interagency chairperson in a letter to O'Connor.

Continued Cottman, "The funded community mental health centers in Los Angeles serve high priority populations in poor, economically deprived areas and/or seriously disturbed children, youth and adults."

He added, "A proposal process would involve an extended period of time, political infighting, and would not coincide with congressional intent of increasing the 84 percent allocation by 16 percent resulting in a 100 percent allocation, thereby restoring previously curtailed funding.

"We believe that this increase, which amounts to \$750,000 for mental health in California, is a statement by Congress that it wishes to restore ADM programs to their previous level," concluded Cottman.

Historically, when the federal government discontinued the direct grants for community mental health centers, all the money previously given to individual centers was put into Alcohol, Drug Abuse and Mental Health Block Grants in the Omnibus Reconciliation Act of 1981.

There were specific requirements about those centers which had been funded and were still eligible for continued state funding.

At the same time, the state Department of Mental Health set up a policy task force to determine which CMHCs were eligible for federal funding. A list of CMHCs was drawn up to determine which were entitled to federal dollars so that as dollars shifted from the federal government to the state, centers would continue to be funded.

The state gives money to counties where approved centers are and the county passes the money on to the centers. There are a number in Los Angeles County including La Puente, Coastal, Hillview, Central City, Northridge/Reseda, Didi Hirsch, Kedren, Van Nuys and El Centro Community Mental Health Centers.

Said Berman, "Additional money (if available) from the same block grant would first be used to bring the center funding back to where it was when block grants first passed.

"Money came through from the feds with a 16 percent cut. CMHCs received 84 percent of what they had the previous year. The first new money to bring up the percent is coming down now."

The CAC has authored arguments in favor of block grant funding going to CMHCs, rather than to new small discretionary grants. "The original agreement by the department of mental health was that all block grant monies would go to the CMHCs. Both the CMHCs and the counties have planned on this agreement.

"The CMHCs are an integral part of the overall county programs. If the CMHCs were to go, critical services would be missing. The CMHCs provide a central core around which additional funding is plugged in. If the core goes, so does the additional programming and money. The CMHCs provide services that are the same as some of the discretionary grant ideas.

"The proposed RFP process is inconsistent with the administration's initiative and contrary to current statute as it circumvents the Short-Doyle plan process."

"The money could be used by anyone who wanted submit a proposal," said Berman. "This creates problems because it abandons the CMHCs already in existence. It's nice to have start-up money for new programs, but the bind is that this is one time only money and it's not added to the base."



Statewide officers for the California Council of Community Mental Health Contractors are (l to r): Vice President William Moss, Sacramento; Secretary Carmel McKay, M.P.H., El Cerrito; President Dr. Susan Mandel, Pasadena; and Treasurer Holly Johnson, San Diego.

PRIVATE CONTRACTORS STATEWIDE VOICE HEARD IN LOCAL COUNTIES

They have concluded that the only way to bring strength to their point of view is to join forces with others.

They are meeting in counties all over the state.

And even though they fight the same legislative battles as many other groups, they bring a unique perspective to serving the needs of the mentally ill.

They are the private, non-profit providers of mental health services, joined together in the California Council of Community Mental Health Contractors.

They contract to provide public funded mental health services in partnership with Departments of Mental Health in the counties.

The council was established in 1980 in anticipation of federal block grants, deregulation of Community Mental Health Centers and cuts in federal and state dollars for mental health. Its purpose is "to enhance public awareness and support of the highest quality mental health care, at the community level, for all requiring such care," according to President Dr. Susan Mandel, executive director, Pasadena Guidance Clinics, and also chairperson of the Los Angeles County Contractors Association.

Other council officers are: Vice President William Moss, center director for Terkensha Associates, Sacramento; Secretary Carmel McKay, M.P.H., consultant, El Cerrito; Treasurer Holly Johnson, administrative staff, Childrens Hospital, San Diego.

Meeting in San Diego on March 2 were 35 representatives from Sacramento, San Mateo, San Bernardino, Kern, San Diego and Los Angeles counties; the San Francisco Bay Area; and the San Joaquin Valley.

The group worked on refining by-laws, exploring membership needs, gaining consensus on legislation and identifying common issues in contrac-

ting with individual counties.

And the issues are many.

- In the design of the Management Information System (reporting) for the counties, private contractors see a lack of sensitivity to their needs. "Everything is being designed without consultation. Private contractors would like to have more involvement."

- If there is conflict between state policy and county interpretation of state policy, the private contractors are at risk when they follow county instructions and later state audits are conducted.

- Private contractors feel there is not enough flexibility in the Short-Doyle/Medical ratios in contracting with the counties.

- Counties can shift dollars when allocating the costs of programs to meet the needs of the community but private contractors must go back and renegotiate the contract to make any changes, essentially back to their Board of Supervisors.

- Reimbursement mechanisms, which cause cash flow problems, for private contractors are seen as a lingering difficulty with the counties.

- Fund development is a concern because private non-profit contractors provide more services than the government reimburses.

Other concerns of private non-profit contractors surround issues relating to volunteer board recruitment and cash flow management.

In Los Angeles County, the policy of the Board of Supervisors has been to encourage private contracting.

The next meeting of the California Council of Community Mental Health Contractors will be held in June in Sacramento.

The executive committee will meet in May, also in Sacramento.

Both meetings are planned to allow time for members to speak with legislators about their concerns.

EATING IS SUBJECT OF MEETING

"Body Image, Obesity and the Disorders of Eating," the Southern California Psychiatric Society's (SCPS) annual spring meeting, will have presentations on a variety of eating disorder topics.

The meeting will be held on Saturday, April 7, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Riviera Country Club, 1250 Capri Drive, Pacific Palisades.

Programs will include "An Overview of the Eating Disorders," by Joel Yager, M.D., UCLA professor of psychiatry and Eating Disorders Clinic director; "Obesity and Weight Control," by Frank L. Greenway, M.D., UCLA assistant clinical professor of medicine; and "Biological Aspects of the Eating Disorders," by F. David

Rudnick, M.D., UCLA assistant clinical professor of psychiatry.

Other programs will be "Personal and Family Dynamics of the Eating Disorders," by Carole K. Edelstein, M.D., UCLA assistant clinical professor of psychiatry and Eating Disorders Clinic medical director, and "Hospital Management of the Eating Disorders," by Charles W. Portney, M.D., UCLA assistant clinical professor of psychiatry.

Continuing education credit is available. Tuition is \$85 for SCPS members, \$60 for spouse or guest, \$45 for students and \$95 for non-members.

For more information, call (213) 477-1041

'TEEN TALK' LETS ADOLESCENTS TELL FEELINGS, FRUSTRATIONS

"There are two classes that seem to be 'throw away' people that are not really given the attention they deserve and warrant in our society. These are teens and older persons," says Joseph N. Feinstein, M.Ed.

Feinstein is host and producer of the Emmy Award-winning "Teen Talk" television talk show with teen-agers. It is designed, Feinstein says, "to show teens are sensitive and articulate, and they will verbalize their feelings if someone cares to listen."

Feinstein speaks with concern for adolescents.

"We're not paying enough attention to our teens, and that is going to come back to haunt us 20 years from now in ways we've never thought," he says. "We'd better start paying attention to these young people."

"We have to give them honor, and we have to give them ways to be useful and function, not just to keep them in school. We have to be caring with these young people, and we're not doing a very good job in that area. It's the same thing with the wisdom of the elderly. We pay our closest attention to the money makers."

"Teen Talk" has just completed its third season and will return in the fall. It airs on KHJ Channel 9 on Saturdays at 9 a.m. with repeats at 6 a.m.

In an informal setting, Feinstein initiates dialogue with seven teen-agers on that week's topic. More than 500 teen-agers have appeared on the 80 shows.

"In this particular program, we don't look to psychologists, social

their peer group as a voice of authority."

Parents can also learn from "Teen Talk," believes Feinstein.

"Hopefully, when adults hear how young people verbalize their dreams, hopes and frustrations, they can develop a little more objectivity. Then they can work with their own young people a little more objectively," he says.

"When kids indicate there are times when they feel so depressed, unloved or unwanted, then may be it will help parents to perceive that just as they hugged their baby, it may be time to tell them (their teen-agers) just how loved they are," says Feinstein. "If only we were as quick to hug as we are to blame."

"I want my viewers to sense the beauty, frustration and charm that adolescents offer to the world. That they have problems is evident, that they have some of the answers is also evident, but they still need direction, a sense of belonging and a sense of purpose from all the adults in their midsts."

If Feinstein sounds as if he know adolescents well, it may be because he has had plenty of experience. When KHJ invited him to develop a television program that ended up as "Teen Talk," a friend suggested, "Do what you do best. Why not do a show with kids?" For that first show, on divorce, Feinstein received an Emmy in 1981 for public affairs series-independent station.

Self-described as the "only boy babysitter in my neighborhood in the Bronx," Feinstein decided in 11th grade that he "wanted to be just like" his teacher and chose that profession.

Feinstein has taught at Grant High School in Van Nuys since its opening in 1959, first heading up the English department. Among his courses are "Singles Living," "Death and Living" and "Contemporary American Problems."

Feinstein would like to develop further programs to help teen-agers.

"I've accumulated a lot of awareness and knowledge through the years, and that has been a joy," he says. "Now it's time for me to give back."

Much like his hero, Benjamin Franklin, Feinstein says, he enjoys "dabbling in a million different areas and endeavors. You get moldy when you do one thing."

Feinstein has been a licensed marriage, family and child therapist in private practice for 13 years. He works primarily in the areas of divorce, adolescents and single people.

He has just finished his first book, "my look as a teacher on how to teach controversial subjects—drugs, sex, divorce, death, homosexuality—topics most teachers are afraid of teaching."

He has submitted a proposal to the Los Angeles City Schools to do research on why young people are not going to school, a study that would be "not statistical, but down to earth," he says.

He also is an adviser to two San Fernando Valley Parents Without Partners groups, a lecturer and a Sunday School teacher.

"I have a biting interest in the world," Feinstein says. "My interest circulates in many ways."

"The world is giving me back plenty."

Feinstein is "always curious" about what viewers think of "Teen Talk." Comments may be sent to "Teen Talk," KHJ-TV, 5515 Melrose, Los Angeles, CA 90038.



'THE PLAY'S



Director Carrie Bray (in white sweater) with Project Return Players (clockwise, from Bray) Terry Parkhurst, Ron Marshall, Gail Greene, Ro Duron, Lance Dorfman and John Marabella. Not pictured are Clayton Hall, Kevin Thompson, Mark Karmatz, Eleanor Alpert, Sarah Chase and Debbie Cohen.

PLAYERS CELEBRATE BIRTHDAY

Project Return Players improvisational theater troupe is celebrating its birthday.

The group was formed in 1982 by actress Carrie Bray, who serves as director.

Players are drawn from Project Return, a Mental Health Association in Los Angeles County federation of self-help clubs for recovering mentally ill adults.

In the past two years, the troupe has performed extensively, not only in Los Angeles County, but throughout California.

Players have appeared on television, both individually and as a group. Most

recently they were part of KNXT Channel 2 new's four-part series on local mental health needs.

They are featured in "Interrupted Lives," an upcoming film on the need for community support services. Locally, the film will be shown at 6 p.m. on May 20 on KCET Channel 28.

In recognition for their time and effort, Players were honored by director Bray at a luncheon on March 29.

For more information on the Project Return Players, call (213) 629-1527.

COMEDY TO BENEFIT PROJECT RETURN

A benefit performance of the comedy, "Like One of the Family," will be presented at 8 p.m. on Sunday, May 6, at Theatre West, 333 Cahuenga Blvd. West, Los Angeles.

The performance will benefit the Mental Health Association in Los Angeles County's planned Project Return Center.

Project Return is a federation of self-help clubs for recovering mentally ill adults. The Project Return Center will be a vocation, education and socialization center in Santa Monica.

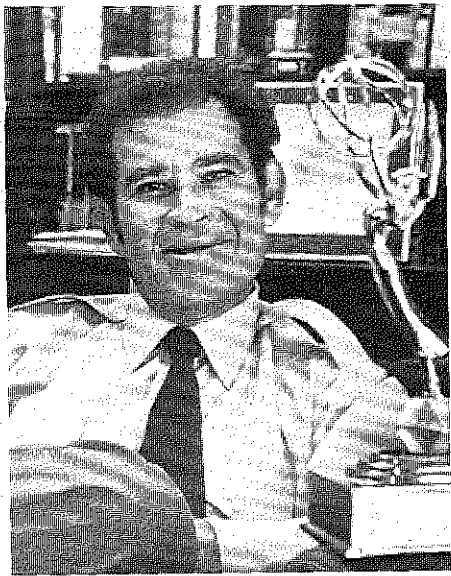
"Like One of the Family" is a play within a play. Dan Sullivan of the Los Angeles Times said of the play, "a house full of zanies ... a fun show

with a little something to say." Tax-deductible tickets for this benefit are \$15 per person or \$25 per couple. Reservations are necessary, and tickets are available on a first come-first serve basis.

Checks made out to Mental Health Association Project Return Center may be sent to Susan Dempsay, Mental Health Association, 930 Georgia St., Los Angeles, CA 90015. Tickets will be held at the door.

Theatre West is located two blocks west of Barham on the south side of the Hollywood Freeway.

For more information, call (213) 629-1527.



Joseph N. Feinstein, M.Ed.

workers or adults to talk about teens. I'm sure they could do a credible job, but this show is kids talking about their needs, concerns and joys," says Feinstein.

Over the past three years, Feinstein and co-producer Betty Lou Port have chosen topics as diverse as divorce, abortion, anorexia nervosa, homosexuality, women's rights, phobias, the world of punk music and coping with stress.

"I have a bias toward good emotional and mental health topics," Feinstein says. "Show business people select topics they think will be popular. I select shows that are instructional, informative and will lend some insights that will provide compassion, sensitivity and awareness."

"This is one producer who is, by training and definition, a psycho-therapist."

Whatever the topic, Feinstein draws from the true life experiences of his teen-age guests.

"Several, if not all, are going to be representative of the program topic, so they really are experts," he says. "Nobody else can talk about it with as much understanding as these kids. Nobody in the world teaches kids better than kids themselves. They look to



A scene from "Like One of the Family"

THE THING'



PSYCHO-THEATER FREES CONSUMERS FROM ROLES OF 'MENTAL PATIENTS'

Psychiatrist Dr. Carole Lieberman uses the play "The Fantasticks" as psycho-theater in working with the residents of Beverlywood Half-Way House.

Cast members, as part of their therapy, rehearse and memorize their lines with director Gail Perryman. While they have given a few performances before sympathetic audiences, the main attraction of the group is the panel presentation after the play in which the performers are open and honest in answering questions about themselves.

According to Lieberman, being assigned a dramatic role frees the per-

son from the role of chronic mental patient. Lieberman believes it provides an opportunity to explore frightening feelings in a safe environment, the character in a play. Performing increases self-esteem and pride in completing a complex project, she said.

Lieberman presides over the performers' group process and conducts supplementary individual psychotherapy.

She is assistant clinical professor at UCLA Neuropsychiatric Institute and is in private practice. Lieberman has specialized in psychiatry and the media and has produced several television series.



Members of the Fantasticks (l to r) Mike Lavin, Glenn Greller, Richard Werra, Ken Drucker, Louise Bessette, the performer who played Mortimer, Lester Horton and in the back Cheryl Thompson.



"Fantasticks" play director Gail Perryman, Dr. Carole Lieberman (l to r) and Cheryl Thompson (seated) as The Mute.



Appearing in "Beyond Therapy" are (seated) Linda Purl and Harry Shearer and (standing) Robert Picardo.

DURANG ANALYZES THERAPISTS IN SATIRE 'BEYOND THERAPY'

by Stephen Simmons

With "Beyond Therapy," playwright Christopher Durang does for psychology and therapists what he did for the Catholic Church in "Sister Mary Ignatius Explains It All For You."

In his current play, running indefinitely at Los Angeles' Coronet Theatre, Durang continues poking fun at authority and the establishment, but this time it's the world of therapy.

The play examines the meeting (through a personal ad) and courtship of two people, Prudence and Bruce, who are trying to find each other while their therapists continually get in their way.

Durang has said that he wrote the play when most of his friends were seeing psychiatrists. "It is about relationships and also how psychology and psycho-babble hinder and help us."

In the Coronet Theatre production, the play is performed on a modernistic set that rotates for the various scene changes: the restaurant where the couple meet, the therapists' offices and Bruce's apartment.

The play is served nicely by this functional merry-go-round, a kind of carousel of love most of us have felt we were on at one time or another.

Prudence is looking for someone to protect her but is afraid of relationships. "Your instinct is to run away, you're afraid of feeling," Bruce tells her. Bruce is subject to bursts of crying (encouraged by his therapist) and lives with a jealous male lover.

Both take their problems to their therapists. Durang's satire has made the therapists easily the most entertaining characters.

Prudence's psychiatrist, Dr. Stuart Framingham, is a macho man given to wearing huge, gaudy belt buckles and pointed-toed boots. He's also had an affair with Prudence.

He's unhappy about her relationship with Bruce. Sex, he insists, should remain in a therapeutic context.

Bruce's psychologist, Mrs. Wallace, hugs her stuffed Snoopy, confuses words like patient and porpoise, and identifies with Dr. Martin Dysart of "Equus." "He thought it was better to blind eight horses than have no passion," she tells Bruce.

Much of the success of the play lies in Durang's ability to hysterically satirize the way therapists talk. Mrs. Wallace tells Bruce to be "emotionally open and never be afraid to risk, risk, risk." She stops just short of telling him to get in touch with his feelings.

Part of Durang's message, is that

therapy becomes so important it becomes almost a crutch, hindering people from making their own decisions and living their own lives. When she threatens to discontinue her therapy, Dr. Framingham tells Prudence, "You mustn't be without a therapist, even for a day."

Act One ends with a confrontation between Prudence, Bruce and Bob, who can't understand his roommate's thing with women. Bruce, who has his therapist's home telephone number, calls her, "Mrs. Wallace, we're having a bit of an emergency ... we're in desperate need of some therapy here."

Prudence and Bruce place their faith blindly in their therapists who have all the answers (although at the end of the play Prudence admits she would rather take tennis lessons). Durang says that common sense and understanding could possibly help a relationship more than therapeutic cliches.

"Beyond Therapy" is a cute, lighthearted look at therapy and society in the '80s, a farce that takes what therapists do and say to an extreme.

Those who have had therapy or are considering it should find it amusing and entertaining. As "Sister Mary" did not result in a drop of enrollment in parochial schools, "Beyond Therapy" should not hinder those considering a consultation. It does what a good piece of satire should—it exaggerates reality to make us laugh at ourselves.

Several reviewers, including the Los Angeles Times' Dan Sullivan, have said that "good therapists will laugh and the bad ones will be offended." Durang's play is not an attack but a loving sendup of an "industry," like the Catholic Church in his other play, that tries to help people but gets hung up in its seriousness and authority.

Durang is not anti-therapy or therapists (Mrs. Wallace actually helps Bob and in the end, Dr. Framingham) but is against not taking responsibility for one's own life, putting too much stock in authority and the idea of seeing a therapist because it is the trendy thing to do.

"Beyond Therapy" is not a piece of serious "theatre" to be overly analyzed. It is comedy that asks, "Can people find love and successful relationships in today's trying times?" Durang answers with a wistful and optimistic "yes."

Tickets for "Beyond Therapy" are available at the Coronet Theatre Box Office, 366 N. La Cienega Blvd. Tickets can be charged by telephone at (213) 659-6415.

MARTINEZ CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

previous three years were spent with the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) in Washington, D.C. with inter-governmental relations.

He has worked with several state mental health authorities, including Maine, Ohio, Virginia and Colorado, as a representative of the institute. "I had the advantage in other states of being fairly close to the flagpole to observe what was going on.

"California's system is interesting compared with other states I know," says Martinez. "California is ahead of many states in conceptualizing how a system should be, i.e. the 'California Model'. The state is innovative in planning and conceptualizing the ideal system, but in many ways it is archaic in terms of the system in place.

"This is a system that 15 years ago was a model for the country," says Martinez. "Now it is a shambles compared with other states.

"It appears that this state system has suffered dearly from the lack of vision and leadership at the top. The state director position has changed too many times and been occupied by people of limited vision."

The better states, he says, are those that have made the most progress in contracting out to non-profit agencies for delivery of services.

"We have hung onto government-operated facilities for way too long and caused a host of problems that tend to stifle quality and quantity, with personnel problems being a primary example.

"We have a mental health system operated by the county and operated by Civil Service people with all the requirements that go with it," says Martinez. "Mental health treatment has changed faster than government-based systems have been able to adapt and the system becomes archaic."

At the start of this year, "to bring about a higher level of communication and coordination," department reorganization combined program development and quality support into the one department and Martinez was made assistant director. Budget cuts had already cut training by more than half to where now "it barely exists. We are in the process of reformulating and expect to have a program together soon, not in the same

was developed to try and create a broader level of organized involvement on the part of government, private providers, families and consumers in the care of the mentally ill.

"It is an effort to bring together all these components under some community-based umbrella and seeks to provide a continuum of community-based services."

Now this networking program is in its implementation. "By necessity," says Martinez, "progress has been slow. It takes a long time to bring the components along; in the near future we will see more product than in the first 18 months.

"The ideal system is one in which a complete network of clinical and support services together have the necessary flexibility to meet clients at any point in the cycle of mental illness."

A licensed clinical psychologist, Martinez graduated from Texas Technical University and completed his internship at the University of Colorado Medical Center.

Martinez changed his major from electrical engineering to psychology in the middle of his undergraduate career.

"I was in high school during the Sputnik era. Along with other students I wanted to make my contribution to our effort by becoming an engineer, physicist or scientist. Later, with maturity, I realized I was more a people person than one who worked with technology and hardware. I couldn't become a teacher because everyone in my extended family is a teacher; I wanted to be different."

Martinez is also a writer with his first novel "Hadidusa" ("You have to read the book to figure out the title") being considered by a publisher.

Cross country motorcycle trips with friends are his escape and he has been "to the end of the road in Canada and almost to the end in Mexico.

"It's freeing and exhilarating on the road for two or three weeks with friends, in direct contact with the world as you flash by, and it's kind of dangerous, which has its own kind of intrigue."

Martinez is on the board of directors of the Coalition of Spanish Speaking Mental Health Organizations

(COSSMHO), an organization of about 250 agencies that provide of human services, largely to Hispanic clients and he is chair of the board of Ethnic Minority Affairs in the American Psychological Association.

"Minorities are woefully underserved," says Martinez. "We have tremendous manpower problems; many program designs are inappropriate for clients from other cultures. We have to consider that Southern California is the new Ellis Island for many Third World people. We simply have to do a better job of designing cross-cultural programs.

"Although many people speak English well enough to survive on the streets," says Martinez, "we need to be aware that for receiving mental health services their English language skills may not be adequate."

Martinez was one of the mental health professionals interviewed for Channel 2's news series on the mental health system. Though much of what he said ended up on the cutting room floor, he is a firm believer in education and advocacy.

"We must keep the issues in the public eye and continue to update the legislature and constituencies as to what the state of the art is. If we tell our story well and work together, we can improve the system."



Karen de Fraga, Ph.D., and Rene Korth

VOLUNTEER CARE GIVERS RECEIVE TRAINING AT PASADENA CENTER

They may be barbers, Bible school teachers, bartenders or receptionists at urban centers.

Whoever they are, they are also "natural care givers," non-mental health professionals others informally seek out for advice or help.

Training to enhance these persons natural abilities is just one of the services of the non-profit Pasadena Mental Health Center and is part of a collaborative effort among four agencies.

Project IV: Family Outreach is a non-traditional, out-of-office mental health project of Pasadena Guidance Clinics, Foothill Family Service, the Counseling Center at Fuller and Pasadena Mental Health Center. Training for the natural care givers is the center's component.

"The natural care giver training helps people to be helpers and to be a positive resource," said Karen de Fraga, Ph.D., Pasadena Mental Health Center's executive director. "They are people who would like others' lives to be better than they are."

The training, with an emphasis on cultural issues, focuses on communication skills, crisis intervention and knowledge of community resources.

The involvement with this project is an example of Pasadena Mental Health Center's sense of community. It is "an organization that tries to stay in tune with the community it supports," said de Fraga.

The center itself grew out of "the social activism of the '60s, Pasadena's long history of volunteerism in the community and a willingness to do something," according to de Fraga.

It was started by a group of mental health professionals who believed "everybody has the right to quality mental health care even if they don't have the means," de Fraga said. A local hospital gave the small house on Fair Oaks Avenue in Pasadena that was the center's home until 1978 when it moved to its current location on Lake Avenue.

The center depends on that sense of volunteerism, for 95 percent of the its services are done by volunteers. The volunteer paraprofessional counselors must give at least a two-year commitment to the center and must go through an intensive year-long training program.

Training is an area for which the center has been nationally recognized. The program for training volunteers was selected as a national model of training of paraprofessionals by the National Institute of Mental Health. Mental health professionals volunteer

their time for the training and for supervising the paraprofessional counselors.

Volunteers come from throughout San Gabriel Valley, and about 50 percent are accepted for training. They "come with good skills, and they have dealt with their own lives successfully. They convey a sense of warmth; you can't train that," de Fraga said.

"We try to emphasize that everything you do therapeutically should try to convey a real sense of respect for the client," she said. "The emphasis is on quality training.

"It is almost an act of courage for people to pick up the phone and let a stranger know what is happening with them, so we make sure that what happens here is quality.

"My belief is that a therapist is tender with persons, but at the same time the therapist needs to require that the persons tap within them that which is strongest, so when they walk out the door and leave therapy, they know they are emotionally equipped with their own emotional tools for getting on with their lives."

After an initial 20 weeks of training, the volunteers work on the center's telephone crisis hotline. This is the only counseling they do until training is completed.

The center's purpose remains to provide low-cost services for low to moderate income persons. Approximately 70 percent of the center's clients are at or below the poverty level. The average fee per session is \$7.

Services offered include family and individual counseling in areas such as personal relationships, marital or family problems, and depression. The center is open four evenings a week and on Saturday mornings.

Physically, Pasadena Mental Health Center is a renovated two-story house, one of Pasadena's oldest. It has a homey look, with carpeting and comfortable furniture. Clients "feel they are coming into a place that makes them feel at home as a person, and not coming in as a sick person," said de Fraga.

For the past five years, the center has held an annual community conference. This year's conference will be held on June 1 at the Pasadena Convention Center. The topic will be "Unfolding New Trends in Mental Health," and the speaker will be Dr. Steven Shon, clinical director of the state Department of Mental Health.

Pasadena Mental Health Center is located at 1495 N. Lake Ave., Pasadena. Its phone number is (818) 798-0907.

"This is a system that 15 years ago was a model for the country. Now it is a shambles compared to other states ... this state system has suffered dearly from the lack of vision and leadership at the top."

grand scale as before, but enough to meet the needs."

In his job with the Department of Mental Health, Martinez is responsible for the day-to-day supervision of the activities of the bureau (headed by Allan Rawland, M.S.W.) which includes four major areas: department planning, coordination of community support systems, quality assurance and management information systems. "That's my basic domain," says Martinez.

"We need to remember that mentally ill people are able to function well for at least part of the time and at other times not function at all," says Martinez. "This continual variation in ability to cope needs to be better built into programs. Most mental illnesses are cyclical while programs are linear; they're too inflexible. Programs have rigid criteria for admission and this tends to create gaps in the array of services."

Partly for this reason, Martinez was instrumental in the creation of the Community Support Systems Project (CSSP).

"CSSP is one of the few efforts in Los Angeles County specifically designed to bring together all the constituencies of mental health especially for the purpose of creating a better support network," says Martinez. "It

REAGAN TEMPORARILY DELAYS DISABILITY BENEFITS CUTOFF

The Reagan Administration has tentatively decided to stop reviewing and cutting off Social Security disability benefits for 18 months, according to Administration officials.

The Administration has been accused of trying to make improvements in the program so that it would not be a political issue in the current election year.

The Administration has been under pressure from the courts, state governments and Congress for its handling of the program, according to Barbara Bennett, a senior attorney with Mental Health Advocacy Services Inc. in Los Angeles.

MHAS has been involved in several law suits seeking reinstatement of Social Security Income benefits for people who had been wrongly terminated. Subsequent litigation has resulted in a case now pending before the Supreme Court.

In its own response to the problem, the House of Representatives voted 410 to 1 Tuesday, March 27, to approve a bill that would slow the stripping of federal disability benefits from hundreds of thousands of people.

The measure is opposed by the Reagan Administration as being too expensive. A similar measure is also pending in the Senate.

More than 470,000 people have been removed from the disability rolls nationwide since March 1981, when the Administration began reviewing recipient's eligibility. Administration officials claim the reviews were designed to verify eligibility under terms of a 1980 law and save money

by halting payments to ineligible people.

Rep. J.J. Pickle (D-Tex.), chairperson of the Social Security Subcommittee, said in the Los Angeles Times that the disability program "is in a state of total chaos" and there has been "horror story after horror story" since a congressionally-mandated review of disability recipients was begun three years ago.

The situation has become so chaotic that 20 states are operating under court-ordered guidelines that differ from the Social Security Administration's national guidelines and nine other states have chosen on their own to halt terminations until changes are made, according to Bennett.

Established in 1956, the disability insurance program pays benefits to people who cannot work because of a physical or mental disability. Financed with Social Security payroll taxes, it is expected to cost \$18.5 billion this year.

The Administration is soon expected to announce an 18-month moratorium on all disability reviews while a panel clarifies standards used for stopping payments. The panel of medical experts would study the medical improvement issue under that plan.

The legislation passed by the House extends permanently the right of those who appeal termination of benefits to continue receiving them until a final decision is reached by an administrative law judge. These benefits would be subject to repayment if the initial termination decision is upheld.

LEGISLATIVE ANALYSIS

The following are mental health-related bills which have been introduced this legislative session. The information presented includes the author and title of the bill, a brief summary and the bill's current status.

STATE ASSEMBLY

AB 1566 (Areias) Mental Health

This bill would require the state Department of Mental Health to undertake a study, to be submitted to the Legislature by April 15, 1984, for the purpose of developing a long-range plan to determine the number of state hospital days needed to adequately serve the needs of mentally disordered persons statewide. This bill would require that the study be funded from the appropriation for state hospital beds for the mentally disabled in the annual budget act. The bill is in the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services.

AB 2613 (Bronzan) Medi-Cal Eligibility

Under existing law, in determining eligibility and the amount of the share of costs which must be paid by Medi-Cal recipients residing in skilled nursing or intermediate care facilities, statutory provisions exempt an unspecified amount for the personal and incidental needs of the recipient. This bill would specify that this amount shall be \$45 per month. The bill is in the Assembly Committee on Health.

AB 2946 (Bates) Disability Evaluations

This bill would specifically provide that in performing its disability evaluation function under the State Supplementary Program, as well as under federal programs, disability status shall only be denied pursuant to federal or state statutes or properly promulgated regulations. The bill is in the Assembly Committee on Human Services.

AB 3586 (Sebastiani) Community Care Facilities

This bill would define an unlicensed community care facility and would prohibit an unlicensed facility from operating in this state. The bill is in the Assembly Committee on Human Services.

AB 3627 (Areias) Medi-Cal Long-Term Care Facilities

This bill would permit a facility to charge the resident up to 40 percent of the amount of their personal needs allowance for the rendering of personal laundry and barbering or hair-dressing services. This bill is in the Assembly Committee on Health.

AB 3747 (Bates) Community Care Facilities

This bill would include a social rehabilitation facility serving mentally ill persons within the definition of community care facilities for the purposes of licensing. This bill is in the Assembly Committee on Health.

AB 3906 (Allen) Community Care Facilities

This bill would transfer the responsibility to adopt a rating scale for facilities for the developmentally disabled to the state Department of Developmental Services and for facilities for the mentally disordered to the state Department of Mental Health. The bill is in the Assembly Committee on Health.

AB 3921 (Bradley) Mental Health

This bill would enact the requirement that the Department of Mental Health transfer its responsibilities for state-funded mental health social services to local mental health programs. The bill is in the Assembly Committee on Health.

ACR 133 (Allen) Telephone Company Yellow Pages

This measure would request the Public Utilities Commission to require all telephone companies to list licensed community residential care facilities in the yellow pages organized according to the major client groups which the facilities serve. The Committee assignment for this measure has not been made.

STATE SENATE

SB 1327 (McCorquodale) Community Care Facilities: Temporary Suspension: Receivership

This bill makes a variety of provisions related to community care facilities, including temporary suspension of licenses, receiver appointment by Superior Court and damages. This bill is in the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services.

SB 1431 (Petris) Nutrition: Institutions

This bill would require the Department of Corrections, the Department of the Youth Authority, the state Department of Mental Health and the state Department of Developmental Services to develop nutritional standards for meals served in their respective institutions. The bill is in the Senate Committee on Finance.

SB 1557 (Ayala) State Police: State Hospitals

This bill would provide that the California State Police Division shall furnish the necessary personnel at state hospitals to provide all police and security services, as specified. The bill is in the Senate Committee on Judiciary.

SB 2202 (Ayala) Community Care Facilities

This bill would require a new applicant for a community care license to make written notification to property owners located within 100 yards of the boundaries of the property of the proposed facility. The bill would prohibit the licensing agency from granting the application for licensure if more than 50 percent of the owners register an objection to the location. The bill makes other provisions relative to community care facilities. The bill is in the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services.

SB 2231 (Keene) Mental Health

The bill would require that the state Department of Mental Health develop a formula to allocate available state funds for the treatment of insane criminal defendants committed to inpatient or outpatient treatment in the community to ensure that all participating counties are funded on an equitable basis. This bill is in the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services.

TASK FORCE CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

He said he would like a year to take a serious look at mental health system and said his subcommittee, with Senators Herschel Rosenthal and William Campbell, would begin its own hearings in the fall.

According to subcommittee consultant Jane Uitti, McCorquodale is still formulating the content and format of his hearings, but the subcommittee will look at "the extent to which the Short-Doyle and Lanterman-Petris-Short acts are still viable."

After its hearings around the state, the subcommittee will make recommendations and propose legislation.

In her comments, Watson pointed out that "in the 1981-82 budget for state hospitals and community programs there was a \$488 million appropriation. This fiscal year allocation of \$443 million represents an all time low.

"We have not kept up a maintenance of effort in the mental health program," said Watson. "The Governor's proposed mental health funding is higher than it has been in the last five years," she said, "however, most of the increase comes from increase to the state hospitals.

"We need to remind the Governor that restoration of funds will not cover money lost because of inadequate cost of living adjustments (COLA) and the

increasing number of people who need services."

She concurred that more emphasis needs to be placed on community-based programs, "keeping a commitment to private providers in community-based settings."

Mojonnier attended the meeting "to learn and listen. I got into this position not knowing much about mental health."

Mojonnier, author of AB 2381, which makes sweeping changes in the mental health system, has been urged by mental health constituencies to make mental health a bi-partisan issue and was told "mental health needs a champion; we lost a lot when we lost Frank Lanterman."

Mojonnier added that, for her, community-based mental health care is a top priority. "AB 2381 is only a first step," she said, "a primary step which must be followed with the recommendations of a one-year study by the Select Committee. We must continue to work together and cannot continue to turn away from our responsibility."

The task force report will be sent to the Assembly Select Committee, used by the Senate Subcommittee on Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Genetic Diseases and be used in budget deliberations.

CHILDREN CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

work with child abuse work together in one place, we could look at the total child and the needs of the total family."

A Children's Services Task Force, made up mostly of county officials, proposed a separate children's bureau within the present Department of Public Social Services.

The task force reported that a separate children's department might not be feasible because state law requires that children's protective services be assigned to the welfare agency. According to Edelman, legislation would be sought to overcome this barrier.

Along with three grand juries; Arthur Young and Co., independent auditor; and Edelman, the task force concluded that children's services are scattered through the bureaucracy and have such a low priority that child abuse cases are not adequately investigated or supervised.

Children's programs are now divided among the Department of Adoptions, the

Department of Probation's runaways division and three bureaus in the Department of Public Social Services: Bureau of Assistance Payments, Bureau of Social Services Operations and the Bureau of Planning Development.

Placing a children's bureau in an established department was tried twice before, in the late 1960s and after Proposition 13. The plan failed both times.

All three major Los Angeles newspapers have published editorials endorsing a separate children's department. "A separate child-services department would not only provide better organization at the same cost," wrote the Los Angeles Herald Examiner, "it would by its very existence help guarantee that the county won't abandon the children in hard budgetary times."

The task force left open the possibility of a new department should things not improve in a year.

CALENDAR

April 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

Forte Foundation: A pre/post divorce support group for men and women will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. at 17277 Ventura Blvd. Suite 201, Encino. Fee is on an ability to pay basis.

Call (818) 788-6800 for information.

April 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

California Graduate Institute Counseling Center: A workshop on enhancing relationships will be held from 8 to 9:30 p.m. at 1100 Glendon Ave., Suite 1119, Westwood.

Call (213) 208-3120 for information.

April 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

Help Anorexia: The South Bay chapter will meet at 7:30 p.m. on April 2, 16, 23 and 30 at St. Margaret Mary Church, classrooms 5 and 6, 25429 Eshelman, Lomita. The April 9 speaker meeting, featuring dentist Dr. Charles Wolcott of the UCLA School of Dentistry, will be held at 7:30 p.m. in the Torrance Memorial Hospital auditorium, 3330 Lomita, Torrance.

Call (213) 326-3763, from 6 to 8 p.m., for information.

AMI Meetings

Meetings of Alliance for the Mentally Ill (AMI) chapters, groups for relatives and friends of mentally ill persons, will meet as follows:

Pomona AMI will meet on April 3 from 7 to 9 p.m. at Landmark Medical Center, 2030 N. Garey Ave., Pomona.
Call (818) 576-0784 for information.

AMI Glendale will meet on April 3 at 7 p.m. at Verdugo Mental Health Center, 417 Arden, Glendale. Caring and sharing sessions will be held at 6 p.m. at the center on Tuesdays.
Call (818) 842-5378 for information.

AMI Norwalk will meet on April 10 at 7:30 p.m. in the Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District administration building, 12820 S. Pioneer, Norwalk.
Call (213) 864-4412 for information.

Beach Cities AMI will meet on April 11 from 10 a.m. to noon at the Office of Mental Health Social Services, 19000 Hawthorne Blvd., Suite 302, Torrance.
Call (213) 772-2188 for information.

AMI Los Angeles will meet on April 12 at 7:30 p.m. at Thaliens Community Mental Health Center, 8730 Alden Drive, Los Angeles. A video tape on behavioral family management, demonstrating methods for helping families cope with mentally ill relatives, will be premiered.

AMI San Gabriel Valley will meet on April 13 at 7:30 p.m. at San Marino Community Church, 1750 Virginia Road, San Marino. Edward J. Stainbrook, M.D., Ph.D., emeritus professor of psychiatry at the USC School of Medicine and psychiatric director of the Las Encinas Hospital Therapeutic Community Program, will speak on current directions of psychiatry.
Call (818) 797-3562 for information.

South Bay AMI will meet on April 16 at 7 p.m. at Torrance First Christian Church, 2930 El Dorado, Torrance.

Westside and Coastal Friends will have an action group meeting on April 19 at 7:30 p.m. at the Brentwood Veterans Administration Medical Center, Building 211, 11301 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles.
Call (213) 472-0834 for information.

AMI East San Gabriel Valley will meet on April 26 at 7:30 p.m. at Queen of the Valley Hospital, 1115 S. Sunset Ave., West Covina, in the trailer near the north parking lot.
Call (818) 337-7439 for information.

April 3

San Fernando Valley Child Guidance Clinic: A free community forum on "Sexual Abuse Prevention: How Can We Protect Our Children" will be held at 7:30 p.m. at 9650 Zelzah Ave., Northridge. Topics will include "How Parents Can Talk to Children About Sexual Abuse," "Child Sexual Assault Prevention Program" and "What Children Should Do to Protect Themselves Against Sexual Abuse."
Call (818) 993-9311 for information.

April 3, 4

Westminster Center for Personal Development: Support groups for "Women in Transition" will be held at 867 E. Atchison, Pasadena. Groups are held Tuesdays, 9:30 to 11 a.m. or 7 to 8:30 p.m., or Wednesdays, 7:30 to 9 p.m. Pre-registration is necessary.
Call (818) 798-0915 for information.

April 4

Pasadena Mental Health Center: A nine-week Systematic Training for Effective Parenting (STEP) class will be offered from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at Victory Park, 2575 Paloma, Pasadena. The fee, including workbook, is \$17.50 per person or \$22.50 per couple.
Call (818) 798-0907 for information.

April 4, 18

El Centro Community Mental Health Center: "Women United," a support group for woman who have been physically or emotionally abused, will meet at 10:30 a.m. at 972 S. Goodrich Blvd., Los Angeles.
Call (213) 725-1337 for information.

April 4, 18

Consumers Advisory Board: CAB will meet at 2 p.m. at Arcadia Mental Health Center, 330 E. Live Oak, Arcadia.
Call (818) 359-6373 evenings before 9 p.m. or (818) 960-6411.

April 4

Compassionate Friends for Bereaved Parents, Los Angeles: This support group for parents whose child has died will meet at 8 p.m. at California Federal Bank, 300 S. Fairfax, Los Angeles.
Call (213) 617-2128 or (818) 788-9701 for information.

April 4

Countywide Interagency Committee on Mental Health: This group will meet at 9:30 a.m. in the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health first floor conference rooms, 2415 W. Sixth St., Los Angeles.

April 7

Southern California Psychiatric Society: "Body Image, Obesity and the Disorders of Eating," is the title for the SCPS annual spring meeting to be presented from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Riviera Country Club, 1250 Capri Drive, Pacific Palisades.
Call (213) 477-1041 for information.

April 7, 14, 21, 28

Teen Talk: Hosted by Joseph N. Feinstein, this talk show with teen-agers will air on KHJ-TV Channel 9. Topics will be "Military Service" at 6 a.m. and "On Sports" at 9 a.m. on April 7, "On Sports" at 6 a.m. and "High Tech" at 9 a.m. on April 14, "High Tech" at 6 a.m. and "Spiritual Self" at 9 a.m. on April 21 and "Drugs, Part One" at 6 a.m. and "Drugs, Part Two" at 9 a.m. on April 28.

April 5, 12, 19, 26

Rio Hondo Mental Health Services: A support group for relatives of mentally ill persons will meet from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at 12000 E. Firestone, Norwalk.
Call (213) 864-2751 for information.

April 8

Southeast Region, Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health: Dr. Gloria Keys, Augustus Hawkins Mental Health Center staff psychiatrist, will be the guest on "A Healthy Mind: For You and Your Family" radio call-in talk show, hosted by Julius I. Fuller, M.S.W. It will air at 9 p.m. on KACE, 103.9 FM.
The number to call in during the show is (213) 671-7639.

April 9, 16

Manos de Esperanza, San Fernando Valley Community Mental Health Center: The in-service training programs, open to all mental health professionals, will be "Psychological Testing: Practical Assessment Tools" on April 9 and "Know Your Rights as a Worker: Employment Issues" on April 16. Both will be held from 10:30 a.m. to noon at 6740 Kester Ave., Van Nuys.
Call (818) 988-8050 for information.

April 11

UCLA Extension: "Facing the Ethical Issues in Science and Medicine: Life, Death and Other Modern Dilemmas," a lecture series exploring the implications of new technology on human life, will be held from 7 to 9:30 p.m. on Wednesdays until May 16 in 1220B Knudsen Hall, UCLA.
Call (213) 825-0641 for information.

RCLC

The Regional Community Liaison Committees (RCLCs), the citizens advisory groups providing input to the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health at the regional level, will meet as follows:

San Gabriel Valley Region RCLC will meet on April 10 at 5:30 p.m. at Arcadia Mental Health Center, 330 E. Live Oak, Arcadia.
Call (818) 960-6411 for information.

Coastal Region RCLC will meet on April 12 at 6:45 p.m. at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center, conference room eight-east, 1000 W. Carson St., Torrance.
Call (213) 533-3154 for information.

San Fernando/Antelope Valley Region RCLC will meet on April 13 at 10 a.m. at the regional office, 5077 Lankershim, Suite 400, North Hollywood.
Call (818) 508-7800 for information.

Central Region RCLC will meet on April 18 at 7:30 p.m. at LAC-USC Medical Center Psychiatric Hospital, room 2C18, 1934 Hospital Place, Los Angeles.
Call (213) 226-5726 for information.

Southeast Region RCLC will meet on April 19 at 1:30 p.m. at Central City Community Mental Health Center, 4211 S. Avalon, Los Angeles.
Call (213) 603-4884 for information.

RCLC meetings are open to the public.

April 11, 25

Relatives and Friends of the Mentally Ill: This support group will meet at 5:30 p.m. at Augustus F. Hawkins Mental Health Center, 1720 E. 120th St., Los Angeles.
Call (213) 321-3799 for information.

April 11, 25

Help Anorexia: The North Hollywood/San Fernando Valley chapter will meet at 7:45 p.m. at 6240 Laurel Canyon Blvd, Suite 202, North Hollywood.
Call (818) 766-5663 for information.

April 14

Portals House: The SOS Dance for mental health consumers will be held from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. at Wilshire Christian Church, 634 S. Normandie, Los Angeles. Admission is 25 cents.
Call (213) 386-5393 for information.

April 16, 17

National Institute of Mental Health Office of State and Community Liaison and Association of Mental Health Administrators: A symposium on "The Financing of Mental Health Services: Public and Private Sector Perspectives" will be held at the Sheraton Anaheim Hotel, Anaheim.
Call (614) 224-2022 for information.

April 18

Southern California Psychiatric Society: The SCPS series of programs for the public will continue with "Drugs--Their Uses and Abuses," by Sidney Cohen, M.D. It will be presented at 8 p.m. in Hershenson Hall, Stephen S. Wise Temple, 15500 Stephen S. Wise Drive, Bel Air. Fee is \$4.50.
Call (213) 477-1041 for information.

April 19

Hollywood Human Services Project Mental Health Task Force: "Domestic Violence/Battered Women" will be presented by Sherilyn Canady of the Sojourner shelter for battered women at the noon meeting at Hollywood Seventh Day Adventist Church, 1711 N. Van Ness, Hollywood.
Call (213) 467-3605 for information.

April 25

Anorexia Nervosa and Associated Disorders: This self-help group will meet at 8 p.m. at 18345 Ventura Blvd., Suite 414, Tarzana.
Call Suzy Green, Ph.D., at (818) 343-9105 for information.

April 26

Metropolitan State Hospital and Alliance for the Mentally Ill, Norwalk: A six-session lecture/discussion series to help families understand mental illness and the mental health system will be held in the hospital's James Hall, 11400 Norwalk Blvd., Norwalk. The free series will begin with "Schizophrenia" on April 26.
Call (213) 863-7011 for information.

April 26

Mental Health Advisory Board: This advisory group to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors will meet at noon in room 739, Hall of Administration, 500 W. Temple St., Los Angeles.
Call (213) 738-4772 for information.

April 26

Harbor View House: An open house for mental health professionals will be held from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. at 921 S. Beacon, San Pedro. Harbor View House is a non-profit residential and intensive care facility (ICF) center for mentally and developmentally disabled adults.
Call (213) 547-3341 for information.

April 26, 27

Westminster Center for Personal Development: A nine-week parenting skills group will meet at 867 E. Atchison St., Pasadena, on Thursdays from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. or on Fridays from 10 a.m. to noon. Fee, including workbook, is \$55 per person or \$95 per couple.
Call (818) 798-0915 for information.

April 27

San Gabriel Valley Mental Health Region: The annual legislative breakfast will be held at 8 a.m. at Industry Hills and Sheraton Resort, 1 Industry Hills Parkway, City of Industry.
Call (818) 960-6411 for information.

April 28

Southern California Coalition on Battered Women: A domestic violence prevention conference will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Senior Citizens Center of South El Monte, 1556 Central Ave., South El Monte.
Call (213) 392-9874 for information.

April 29

Los Angeles Commission on Assaults Against Women: A self-defense workshop to prepare women to physically and psychologically deal with sexual assault will be offered at the YWCA, 574 Hilgard Ave., Westwood. The \$15 fee is on a sliding scale basis.
Call (213) 651-3147 for information.

April 30

El Centro Community Mental Health Center: "You and Your Baby," an eight-week program, will provide infant care information and counseling to parents with children up to age one and will be offered to residents of the greater East Los Angeles area. The sessions will be held on Mondays from 10 to 11:30 a.m. at Roybal Comprehensive Health Center, 245 S. Fetterly Ave., Los Angeles. Child care for children under age 6 will be provided.
Call (213) 725-1337 for information.

CONNECTIONS

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Executive Director: Richard Van Horn

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