

PARENTS GROUP MEETING

Place: San Carlos City Hall - Red Cross Room, 2nd Floor
Date: October 16, 1974, at 7:30 p.m.
Guest: Dr. Gary Heymann, Chief Psychiatrist, Mental Health Services
Program Evaluation and Research

Have you been following the excellent articles on 'Schizophrenia' in recent issues of the San Mateo Times, the Redwood City Tribune, and The Post? Our thanks go to writers Barbara French of the Tribune and John Horgan of the San Mateo Times for bringing this subject to the attention of readers. Making people aware of the need for care is one way to achieve our goal in San Mateo County.

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Members of P.A.S. (Parents of Adult Schizophrenics) who attended the meeting of the Mental Health Advisory Board on October 4th were:

Eve Oliphant	Tony Hoffman	Peggy Holster	Thelma Miller
Fran Hoffman	Wilma Bradford	June Schutte	Marion Marlowe

For those who are interested, the next meeting of the Board will be on November 6th, 225 West 37th Avenue, San Mateo, in the Multi-Purpose room. Time: 12 noon to 2:00 p.m. Bring a nosebag lunch. Coffee will be served. This should be a provocative meeting. Larry Sosowsky, who investigated this county's mental health program, will be a guest.

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Eve Oliphant and Fran Hoffman attended the annual meeting of the Association of Mental Health held in Sacramento September 27-28. (See: attached list for highlights of the agenda).

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Parents are urged to join our County Mental Health Association, 3802 So. El Camino Real, San Mateo. This is one way to keep abreast of recent developments and make your voice heard.

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NOTE: Anyone needing help for a Schizophrenic member of the family - services available, or 'just talk' - may call one of the following numbers:

345-2745 593-2632 593-3513 366-5357

Eve Ujpnant and Fran Hoffman attended the interesting and informative annual meeting of the California Association of Mental Health in Sacramento on Sept. 27-28

Following are some highlights from the meeting:

Robert Renouf, President CAMH

Mentally ill best served by a strong Mental Health Advisory Board and a strong Mental Health Association.

Many communities resist providing care - MHA should transcend local loyalties. As an association MHA does not want to deal with conflict. Too often a rubber stamp of local planning.

MHA should be an activist partisan on behalf of client, the mentally ill.

Four California counties who represent "Pictures of Positive Accomplishments" reported on their programs. They were Butte, Fresno, Orange and San Diego.

They had all contracted with private providers for residential care service. All had careful follow-up of patients. A continuum of care was considered important from level to level. Fresno's speaker had the continuum shown on a chart from level to level. Meds, therapy, activities, family support, inpatient program, local residence facilities, local social service, local mental health program, independent living training, social rehabilitation, pre-vocational, vocational, employment. Someone was responsible for every patient (lost ones regress). The counties each had nearly all of their state hospital patients back in the county and successfully managed. No one was being sent to the state hospital.

Ernest Klatter, M.D., from Orange County, said responsibility for all care was now with the county. It was divided into 6 regions. He felt more professionals do not necessarily mean better service. Leaders of different peer groups were chosen and given 2 years training - then they help design programs. Chicanos, blacks, ex-addicts, ex-alcoholics, etc., were chosen. The state hospital population was reduced from 504 to 46. Survey of 300 persons in board and care homes was made and all but 4 stated they were much happier in the community.

Carl Rauser, Head of the State Mental Disabilities Program, a panel member at the Workshop on Local Program Funding Hang-ups, stated that the confidence level between counties and the state was at an all time low.

He will visit 20 larger counties to talk about existing programs.

Since Jan. 74 there has been increasing utilization of state hospitals - must allocate 8 million more to them for the next year.

Counties can set their own priorities by law - he feels all inpatient service in hospitals in the county is over utilized. At hospital costs today their money is soon used up.

Counties should have "L" facility with treatment patch for temporary care instead of county hospitals.

Nancy Mathews reported on the project she is heading on Board and Care home visits in San Mateo, Alameda and Marin Counties. She related the findings in the first series of visits. Further reports and recommendations will be forthcoming when the visits are completed.

San Mateo county has a shortage of facilities, particularly for young adults, lacks in crisis care, transportation is a problem for residents, vacancies are not filled promptly even though many are searching for facilities.

The Junior League of Palo Alto received an award as an outstanding contributor for the Friendship Centers in San Mateo County.