

PAS Newsletter

Parents of Adult Schizophrenics
of San Mateo County
NOVEMBER 1981

P.O. Box 3333
30 West 39th Avenue
San Mateo, Ca. 94403
(415) 573-5345

Hrs 1-4 pm Mon-Wed-Fri

Meeting Schedule

NOVEMBER MEETING

Date: November 16, 1981 (MONDAY EVENING)
Time: 7:30 pm get acquainted
8:00 pm speaker
Place: Bay View Savings Community Room
2121 So. El Camino, San Mateo

Speaker: Reverend Walter E. Johnson,
Chaplain Peninsula Hospital

Reverend Johnson was born in Connecticut and spent most of his childhood in Woodside, Ca. in a family of four boys. He attended Sequoia High School in Redwood City, completed his B.A. Degree in Psychology and Sociology in 1956 at Whitworth College, Spokane, Wa., received his M. Div. Degree from San Francisco Theological Seminary in San Anselmo, Ca. in 1960 and was ordained as a Presbyterian Minister the same year.

He has served churches in Alaska, Oregon and Kingsburg, Ca. In 1963 he began a year of Clinical Pastoral Education at Herrick Hospital in Berkeley, Deuel Vocational Institute in Tracy (a maximum security prison) and U C Medical Center in San Francisco. He was Chaplain at Sequoia and Peninsula Hospitals for 3 years, and is now, since 1967 full time Chaplain at Peninsula Hospital.

He is a very active lecturer and seminar leader in many Colleges, High Schools, Churches, and Civic programs. He likes to speak on Health, Faith, Emotional themes. He also does individual and family counseling.

Rev. Johnson lives with his wife Esther and their three teenage children in Millbrae, Ca. His hobbies include Inventing, Flying, Electronics, Mechanics and Science. He often combines his Pastoral Care with flying by doing burials at sea.

PLEASE NOTE THAT OUR MEETING WILL BE HELD ON MONDAY, NOV. 16.

Other Mental Health Meetings:

1st Wed. Mental Health Advisory Bd
Every Month 12:00-2:00 pm Multipurpose Rm
Hlth & Wlfr Bldg, 37th S.M.

3rd Sunday Assn for Mentally Ill Napa
Every Month State Hospital, Music Rm
11:00 to 1:00 pm

Our thanks to William Larsen, Chief Deputy District Attorney, our October speaker, who gave an interesting talk on crime in the community. Mr. Larsen is running for District Attorney in the next election.

CARING AND SHARING

Eve Visconti, Counseling Intern, has offered to work with members who are interested in sharing their feelings about the problems arising from having a mentally ill family member. Helpful approaches to dealing with these problems will be explored. There will be no charge for this service. If you are interested, please call Eve Visconti at 574-8037.

CAFMD CONFERENCE

The CAFMD Fall Conference, held in San Francisco, Oct. 23-24, was well attended by enthusiastic delegates from many of the affiliates. San Francisco AMI efficiently hosted and planned the successful conference.

Donations and pledges from members and funding received from a generous donor make it possible to have a Legislative Action Committee (chaired by Don & Peggy Richardson), and a Legislative Liaison (Tony & Fran Hoffman) to monitor legislative action in Sacramento.

A newsletter will be published and edited by Helen Teisher and Olga Leifert, giving news from affiliates and legislative update.

Continued pledges and donations will be needed to make the above pilot project a success. Make your checks out to CAFMD, and mail to Don Richardson, CAFMD Legislative Action, 3139 Colby Ave., Los Angeles, Ca. 90066.

MOST IMPORTANT to the success of this venture is cooperation and follow-up by each affiliate when action is recommended by the Legislative Action Committee.

CORDILLERAS CENTER LIAISON COMMITTEE 10/22/81

Monitors: The monitors required by the State Review Team (Loren Beckley and Barbara Bisset) haven't yet met with Staff. They would like clarification as to who they should report to. Half time funds are available for the two of them for the next 8 months (20 hrs a week). Protocols and standards will have to be laid out. Carte Blanche information will be available. Bisset will go through charts and records. Confidentiality will be preserved.

Placement of County Patients: Paul Jensen stated that 57% of Lanterman/Petris/Short patients are at present out of County. There are 283 patients in all: 200 either at large or out of County and 83 at Napa. There are 141 in the County, most of whom are in Board and Care homes. 29 out of 283 conservatees are at Cordilleras; a year ago the number was 48. There are about 22 patients in Napa who would be at Cordilleras if Judge Lanam allows it. (Gordon Cutts will analyze and break down the statistics).

NAPA STATE HOSPITAL

Cordilleras Continued:

Paul Jensen says he approved out of County placements @ 7 or 8 a month. Napa Tries to place discharges or calls Paul and G. Cutts for information on placements. Case Management is just gearing up.

Census: It stands at 81 as of today. Tom Mesa, Administrator, reports that of this number, 29 are LPS, 34 are voluntary and 12 are from San Francisco County, leaving 6 San Mateo County patients, whose parents, etc., are conservators.

Reported by Dorothy Texier

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MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD MEETING 11/4/81

Items of particular interest to PAS members are two bills working their way through the Legislature which we should oppose and write letters in opposition to our state legislators. These are AB1855, introduced by Assemblyman Naylor, and AB1997 by Assemblyman Vasconcellos, which in essence seek to do away with the Short/Doyle Act and resulting state mandated programs and allowing counties to set their own priorities and standards. These two bills may be consolidated. We should fight to preserve the Short/Doyle Act to protect the interests of our mentally ill citizens and to prevent the chaos which its repeal would precipitate.

There is much confusion and concern about the Cordilleras situation. There are 83 patients there, 14 of whom are from San Francisco, leaving 69 San Mateo County patients. It is hoped that Judge Lanam will lift the freeze if and when the monitors now working at Cordilleras can give a positive report. Ms. De Luca, Director, reported that the new contract with Mental Health Management, which would be in effect until June 30, 1982, is now in the hands of the District Attorney and must be approved by the Board of Supervisors before being ratified. Canyon Manor in Marin County (also managed by Mental Health Management) may be used for San Mateo patients until Cordilleras is back in full service.

The Director reported that we realistically need 30,000 patient days at Napa but are given only 24,000. She is trying to get this ceiling raised through negotiations with the Dept. of Mental Health.

Jay Gellert is temporarily acting head of the Health Dept while still serving as Ass't County Manager. Mr. Gellert has been closely allied with the Cordilleras issue; and it was suggested he be invited to come to the Dec. MHAB meeting to answer questions. This was voted down for the present.

The County Plan has not yet been approved because of deficiencies in the Mental Health services to the criminal justice system. A joint task force of MHAB and the Board of Supervisors will be set up to look into forensic matters.

Sue Miller, MHAB Observer

Of interest to those whose family members are Napa patients:

Napa State Hospital has received its annual licensing and certification inspection and passed with "flying colors," as reported by Dr. Michael O'Connor, hospital executive director. A 10-member team from the State office of licensing and certification spent 10 days at NSH reviewing all areas of hospital operation.

Some of the hospital units have not been certified as meeting Federal standards because they are housed in buildings that are not up to fire and life safety standards. Some funding for remodeling has been allotted but progress is very slow.

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SACRAMENTO

Not having visited Sacramento for a year or so, we were interested to note that the Department of Mental Health was now housed in an impressive new building. There seemed to be no lack of funding for remodeling of the legislative offices at the Capitol, where we noted a great flurry of building activity.

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A BILL TO OPPOSE

Assemblyman Naylor has introduced AB1855, a bill which would have far reaching impact. It would fund counties with block grants and would limit the responsibilities of the counties in services to various areas, such as drug and alcohol services, social services, county health services, as well as mental health services.

This bill is supported by the County Supervisors Association of California. The mental health portion of this bill appears to be based on a proposal drafted by some of our local mental health planners.

Some of the provisions of this bill:

Repeals existing provision for enforcing county minimal standards as established by the State Dept. of Mental Health.

Repeals existing Short-Doyle funding mechanisms.

Repeals Requirement for counties to have a 17 member Advisory Board with specified composition requirements.

Repeals requirement for a statewide organization of Advisory Boards.

Repeals minority composition requirements for Mental Health Advisory Boards.

Repeals mental health quality assurance requirements as established Jan. 1, 1980.

Repeals existing Short/Doyle plan requirements.

Sets out provisions for a Mental Health Block Grant, whereby each county establishes its own priorities in accordance with legislative goals and services categories. Each county also establishes its own procedural and program rules and staffing standards.

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