

# PAS Newsletter

Parents of Adult Schizophrenics  
of San Mateo County

JUNE 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

### JUNE MEETING

Date: June 17, 1981  
Time: 7:30 pm get acquainted  
8:00 pm speaker  
Place: Bay View Savings Community Room  
2121 So. El Camino, San Mateo

Speaker: San Mateo County Supervisor  
K. Jacqueline Speier

Topic: "The First 150 Days"

Jackie Speier is a first term Supervisor who came into office on Jan. 5, 1981. She is a lifetime resident of San Mateo County, received her B.A. in Political Science from University of California, Davis, and her Law Degree from Hastings Law School.

Ms. Speier's work with former Congressman Leo Ryan and their tragic trip to Guyana has been well publicized.

Supervisors Speier and Bacciocco have recently announced their plans for a fall wedding. We wish them well.

### Other Mental Health Meetings:

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

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

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The PAS Schizophrenia Day Luncheon was a successful fund raiser. Our thanks to George Louzensky who provided the entertainment, George serenaded the diners and later led group singing. Our thanks also to Agnes Repo who took care of planning and ticket sales, to Bay View Savings for the delicious food and the use of the Community Room, and to all members who donated prizes and worked to make the event a success.

We were pleased to note that Schizophrenia Day was observed by family groups in Yolo, Alameda, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, San Diego, several groups in the Los Angeles area and the Schizophrenia Fellowship of Great Britain. This tradition was started in Britain as a means of educating the public regarding facts about this devastating illness.

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The CAFMD Summer Conference will be Saturday, 7/11/81, from 8:30 am until 4:45 pm at the CATAMARAN HOTEL, 3999 Mission Blvd., San Diego, Ca. 92109.

### MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD MEETING 6/3/81

The Mental Health Director's report focused on the overall state picture:

- The 10% County match will be reinstated on Short/Doyle programs.
- A 15% County match will be required for state hospital and inpatient county beds.
- A 6-7% cost of living raise will become effective.

The above measures, when implemented, will mean a \$1,300,000 deficit for the county plan as it presently exists.

The final budget may be adopted July 1. However, things in Sacramento change from moment to moment, so even the final budget may change before July 1.

Consultation and Education grants are federally funded and will probably continue.

Cordilleras is in process of overhauling the program and supervision policies focusing on less freedom and more accountability for patients. Varying levels of care segregated in specific areas of the building are part of the new plans as follows: acute; sub-acute; and chronic with appropriate program and staffing for each level.

Intensive staff training is now in process. The same examination team that uncovered the deficiencies will return the end of June and report on findings. Dr. Charles O'Connor suggested that provision for continuing periodic professional review should be set up for the future.

Report on Region I activities by Dr. Bruce Bess, PhD, Director:

Besides the Guadalupe Health Center, there is also the Southgate Mental Health Center which has an adult out-patient program, a day center serving 24-30 acute patients, 7 continuing care groups which meet weekly, an adult crisis team which also evaluates all new requests for service, a youth team for outpatient and crisis work with the young people - includes "Hot House" program which strives to keep youth at home by working with both parents and children.

The new residential care home, "Eucalyptus House" can accommodate 12; to date has 5. It is considered a transitional half-way house similar to El Camino House - keeping people up to 18 months at the most.

Caminar operates one satellite housing unit which can take Eucalyptus "graduates."

Reported by: Sue Miller

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**REMINDER**  
NAMI 1981 CONVENTION  
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON  
AUG. 14-16, 1981

**Conservator's Office:** Paul Jensen and Administrator Tom Mesa discussed ways to prevent future problems. Conservator must be advised of any invasive medical treatment or one using a general anesthetic. Emergencies must be defined for dental or other treatment. The original court order doesn't cover outside treatment, in some cases. The Conservator also feels that a patient's first pass must be checked in advance.

**Personnel Changes:** John Odenheimer is leaving to head Case Management and Caroline Kraus will be new acting Liaison and Discharge Planner. Sally Mishkind (of the Mental Health Assn) expressed our gratitude to John for his honest, straightforward and fair handling of difficult liaison work.

**Program Changes:** New staff hours have started, i.e., there is now a shift from 1:00 pm to 9:00 p.m., also including mental health workers. Training has been going on for 2 weeks. The Team system means that the leader is responsible for Case Management on that Wing. Social workers will be discussing professional standards weekly.

**Other Changes:** The State Review Team went through personnel records, where training wasn't documented, though it had been taking place. Now Inservice Training will be in all personnel files. Aileen Hessel is retiring as full time Nursing Director, and will be part time Nursing Consultant. Acute patients have not been segregated. The census, as of May 14th, was 99. Bonnie, Patient Representative, said that the patients have been making posters, which has raised morale quite a lot.

Reported by: Dorothy Texier

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#### MEDICAL SCREENING OF MENTAL PATIENTS

Two bills which would authorize studies into the prevalence of undiagnosed, unrecognized, and untreated organic illnesses among California's mentally ill population have been introduced in both the Senate and the Assembly. AB 1388 (Bates) and SB 929 (Garamendi)

See FAMILY JOURNAL OF MENTAL HEALTH for details, May 1981 issue. A special report on Legislation included.

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## Denying the Mentally Ill

It was a familiar story: A New York City transit patrolman roused a man sleeping on a subway platform. The man grew belligerent, somehow got hold of the officer's nightstick and beat him savagely. Arrested, the suspect turned out to have a long record of admissions and releases from a mental hospital, despite findings that he was "potentially dangerous."

The vogue word "deinstitutionalization" once signified the most humane reform in caring for the mentally ill. The theory was that instead of being warehoused in huge, remote institutions, mental patients should be returned to communities where, with help, they might achieve some function in society.

But deinstitutionalization has become a cruel embarrassment, a reform gone terribly wrong, threatening not only the former mental inmates but also the quality of life for all New Yorkers. One important reason for this failure is surprisingly simple: although the state moved with alacrity to carry out the first part of the policy, releasing the inmates, it never provided enough money to realize the second, helping them to new lives in the community.

Between 1965 and 1981, the number of adult mental inmates in New York declined from 85,000 to 23,000. What became of them? It is estimated that 47,000 were dumped in New York City, overwhelming local mental health services. So it was that even a potentially dangerous patient was released so frequently.

Although the era of deinstitutionalization is clearly over, the state is putting most of its effort into guarding against any significant reinstitutionalization. It is tightening up on admissions from the city, saying local agencies should provide local care as best they can while the state plays a mostly regulatory role.

But the idea of shifting the burden to such agencies is ludicrous when their alternate sources of funds are drying up. Meanwhile, as the supply of cheap housing diminishes, the released mental patients become more and more of a nuisance on the city's streets.

It used to be said that by sending the mentally ill off to rural hospitals, society was denying their existence. It now appears that by dropping them back into cities without adequate local care, the state practices the same kind of denial. This heartless shell game should stop.

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The United States boasts 24,900 psychiatrists, 45,500 psychologists, and 256,410 social workers. That boils down to about one shrink for every 673.48 men, women and children — or nearly three times the number of dentists drilling average American teeth. That is a lot of 50-minute hours.

Sat., May 16, 1981

San Francisco Chronicle 9

## Church Council Blasts Reagan

### Philadelphia

The National Council of Churches attacked President Reagan's economic policies yesterday as reversing the nation's commitment to people "to produce more weapons of death."

The 266-member governing board of the council, winding up a three-day conference at the historic Quaker Meeting House, represents 40 million

American Protestants, Anglicans and Orthodox Christians.

The council said Reagan's sweeping economic changes were designed to meet an emergency "purportedly created by runaway government spending and unbearable tax burdens."

"To remedy this alleged condition, however, the Reagan philosophy requires not a cut in government spending so much as a massive transfer of public

money from people assistance to military procurement.

"Nuclear superiority and the capacity to project overwhelming military power anywhere in the world are proposed as basic national policies. Resources that previously contributed, however inadequately, to efforts to improve life are now to be diverted to produce more weapons of death."

Associated Press