

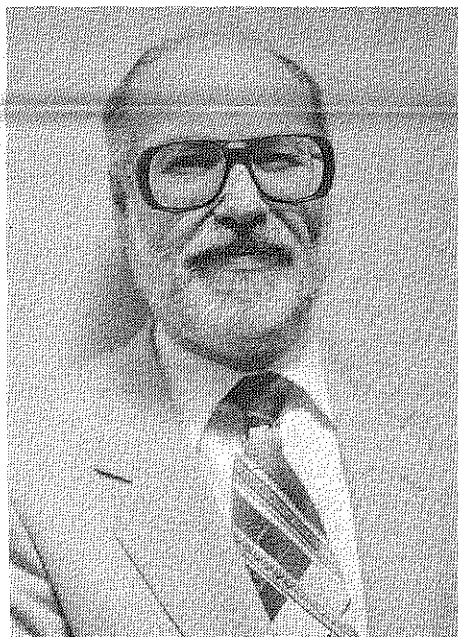
Question of renovation or relocation of Court Department 95 resolved

REPAIRS FINALLY APPROVED FOR MENTAL HEALTH COURT

INTERVIEW:

DR. RONALD MINTZ

President
Southern California
Psychiatric Society



As the new president of the Southern California Psychiatric Society (SCPS), Dr. Ronald Mintz is planning "to steer the organization through unknown waters. We are entering a new and confusing period in delivery of services.

"With new and changing types of provider organizations and health care delivery systems, a lot of groups are asking providers to sign on the dotted

"We who can anticipate the effect of changes . . . have to speak up . . ."

line; many are poorly conceived and poorly run," says Mintz.

"We have to provide guidance to our members and education on the need to examine carefully before signing anything."

The SCPS provides edu-

continued on page 6

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors on April 12th authorized proceeding with the renovation of Superior Court Department 95, the largest and busiest court hearing mental health cases in California.

Located in a converted pickle factory at 1150 N. San Fernando Road, Glendale, the court has been the subject of three Grand Jury reports regarding "extensive safety and fire hazards."

Money has been allocated in the '82-'83 budget for renovation of the building or relocation.

According to Grand Juror Jennifer Clark (1981-82), the delay has centered around the recommendation from the Department of Mental Health that the court be located on the grounds of Metropolitan State Hospital in Norwalk.

The reasons given by the department for a move to hospital grounds in Norwalk are to lessen staff time in testifying and concern for patient care.

This recommendation has been opposed by the court, the Public Defender's office, the Grand Jurors' Association and the Mental Health Association, among others.

The court is against locating at Metropolitan State Hospital. Frank Zolin, executive officer for the Superior Court, in a report to the Supervisors, stated

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BUDGET PERILS MENTAL HEALTH

Potential cuts amounting to \$9.7 million, a 9 percent reduction of program and an estimated 31,230 patients not served are the prospects for county mental health services in 1983-84 if the state budget is accepted in its present form.

The Mental Health Coalition in Los Angeles County is working to inform the public of the mammoth cuts and the impact those cuts will have on the men-

continued on page 4

INSIDE:

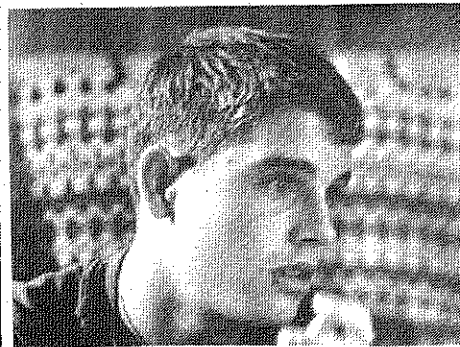
CHILDREN OF DARKNESS
PG. 2

ASNER HOSTS MHA BENEFIT
PG. 3



At the Coastal Region Charitable Giving Campaign Kick-Off meeting were (front) Susan Alvarado; Liz Price; Vi Ogata; Carlene Johnson; (back) Dr. Milton H. Miller, chairperson of the campaign; Roberto Quiroz, vice chairperson; Pat Attridge; Jim Allen and Solveig Atwood. (See story, page 3.)

FILM TV BOOKS



Three of the subjects whose stories are told in "Children of Darkness," a documentary on mental health care and treatment of adolescents, are Tim, Brian and Billy.

KCET AIRS "CHILDREN OF DARKNESS" MAY 4

"There are over seven million mentally ill and emotionally disturbed children in America."

This startling quote opens the Non-Fiction Television Special, "Children of Darkness," a documentary on the psychiatric care of adolescents to be shown Wednesday, May 4 from 10 to 11 p.m. on KCET (Channel 28).

Produced and written by Richard Kotuk and Ara Chekmayan, the program shows the quality of care the children receive in the institutions they live in by highlighting six treatment programs, five public and one private (three types of residences and a state hospital), and by featuring case studies of children who live there.

The first is Brian, a severely mentally ill 18-year-old, suffering from mania and schizophrenia. Brian is a patient at a children's psychiatric hospital in Pennsylvania.

Major therapy at the hospital is through psychotropic drugs to control psychotic behavior. The film shows Brian with a therapist after one of Brian's hallucinating episodes when he claimed the sun came in and hit him on the head.

After his shot, Brian yells, "I can dance." Says the doctor, "This is the best we have — the best system we've got."

Every Sunday, Brian's father, Jim, takes him home. This highlight of Brian's life, and the special relationship between Brian and Jim, is movingly told.

The filmmakers spend a Sunday with Jim, a neighbor girl Linda, who has known Brian all his life, and whom he calls his girlfriend, and Brian — Sunday has been their day for four years.

Brian's father is more than 70 and suffered two serious strokes. At 14 when Brian's illness became too much, Jim had to place him in the hospital.

"Who's going to take care of Brian when I die?" asks Jim. "Who's going to take him out on a Sunday. . . . who's going to bring him home for the holidays and show him the love and care that I show him?"

"Maybe that's why I shower him with affection now. To try to give him everything that I possibly can now, knowing that when I'm gone he won't get it."

"I know he won't want financially, but he will want love and affection. Where will he get that? I just want him to have a happy, peaceful life."

"Half a million children are psychotic. Two million are schizophrenic. One in five suffers from depression."

Powerful images of relationships fill the film. One is Brian getting out of the car, saying goodbye and shaking hands with his father after their visit. "The hardest part of my week is coming home to an empty house Sunday night. I see the room where Brian should be; the room is the same and it hurts."

Also at the hospital is Tim, who suffers from mental illness and muscular dystrophy. "His parents dropped him off and more or less said, 'he's your problem now,'" says a hospital worker.

"My parents moved to Las Vegas and didn't tell me for six months," says Tim. "I kept calling home and getting the new people that moved in. I have to realize that

they didn't want me and never will. I have to make a life for myself."

There's no question that most examples in the film are extreme cases of illness, yet typical to the disease. As the opening statistics continue — of those seven million children, "half a million are psychotic. Two million schizophrenic. One in five suffers from depression."

A segment of the film is devoted to the Elan Treatment Center in rural Maine. The private, residential treatment center is not for the mentally ill, but for "out of control" teenagers.

The youth there are alcoholics, drug addicts and drug pushers, and the narration describes them as "violent, sociopathic and self-destructive."

The desperate parents (largely white and middle class who pay \$20,000 a year) see Elan as a final resort — a last chance to turn their children's lives around. "What can you do with a 6'1", 16-year-old who

"People must take more interest in the mental health system. . . . Hope, no matter how deep, will not do it."

will do whatever he wants and who will wind up in jail?" asks one father.

As the film explains, the idea at Elan is to change behavior through day-in, day-out pressure and constant confrontation — and to teach them to obey authority.

There is no privacy; mail is opened and read; telephone calls are monitored.

Those who adapt to the system and follow the rules, succeeds. The youth work at menial jobs. "This is no utopia," says a director.

Punishments, for residents who don't accept the program, are termed "learning experiences." If behavior is deemed infantile, a resident is made to wear diapers (over clothes) and carry rattles. Hostile residents are put into a ring to physically fight one resident after another until they're beaten and give into the group.

A boy who tried to run away is shown in shackles, chained to a rock outside the residence. The idea is to humiliate and restrict.

A director explains that the boy has run away from 17 institutions. "We're trying to teach him that prison is a realistic concept. He's 15, 5'6" with red hair and green eyes. How long do you think he'll last in jail? When he decides, 'I wanna change and be involved' he'll be out. If he acts like a criminal, he'll be treated like one."

A footnote at the end of the segment reveals that a state investigation proved the success rate at Elan is not as high as the home reports. Yet annually, youths from 22 states and seven foreign countries are sent there.

A program for autistic children is shown at the Sagamore Children's Center in New York (the program is threatened by state budget cuts).

Autism, says the program, "may be caused by brain damage, organic brain disease or by genetic factors. Some doctors believe autistic children inherit a lack of resistance to a virus that destroys part of their brains."

Joe Romagna, who has taught at Sagamore for 12 years, is shown teaching the children the basics of communication and taking care of themselves.

He is shown spending what seems like

an eternity teaching a girl named Lisa to spell her name.

He is asked if the effort is worth it, for so little in return. "It's not a little thing," he says. "These children are special. I think they love me."

Billy, also at Sagamore, is an example of the fact that autistic children grow up, but don't always get better.

He is also severely self-abusing. He has torn at every part of his body, detached a retina banging his head on a wall and tried to mutilate and destroy himself.

Staff, trying to stop the behavior that keeps Billy in a straight jacket most of the time, are shown considering ways to save him from himself such as shock treatment and even a lobotomy.

Finally, the film states that most subjects will carry their illnesses into adult life — and be sent to adult institutions.

And then the film's concluding segment: an exploration of three patient deaths in a large state psychiatric hospital in New York. "In the United States, more than 500 mental patients, including teenagers and children, die each year . . . for reasons that are questionable or unexplained."

The film's investigation in following the cases alleges that patients were tied down, overmedicated with massive amounts of psychotropic drugs, forced to wear football helmets as punishment and denied even the privilege of going to the bathroom.

Psychiatrist Paul Casadonte says in the film that the hospital let the youth die and continues, "People must take more of an interest in the mental health system. Hope, no matter how deep, will not do it."

The National Mental Health Association has said, "Children of Darkness" is a bold, dramatic and powerful statement of both the successes and failures of psychiatric services."

NMHA FORMS UNEMPLOYMENT COMMISSION

Testifying before the U.S. Senate Finance Committee on the mental health implications of unemployment, Marion Vernon, president of the National Mental Health Association (NMHA), announced the establishment of a national commission to examine the effect of unemployment on the American people.

The Mental Health Association in Los Angeles County is one of the more than 800 chapters of NMHA across the country.

As part of her testimony, Vernon said, "The purposes of this Commission will be to inquire into the destructive mental health aspects of high and long term unemployment and to make recommendations as to how the public and private sectors can work together with increased effectiveness . . . so that human needs, including appropriate mental health services are a priority in our approach to what has been a long-term problem for large groups of citizens and which has now spread to all levels of society."

According to Vernon, this new commission will operate in a similar fashion as the Insanity Defense Commission. Excerpts from the Insanity Defense Commission report were published in the Paril issue of Connections.)

There will be a commission appointed, witnesses called, hearings held and a major report with recommendations will be released.

Hearings will take place in Philadelphia during the first weeks of June 1983 with the final report issued on Labor Day 1983.

Recommendations and ideas for who should testify or other ways to proceed may be sent to National Mental Health Association, 1800 North Kent St., Arlington, Virginia 22209-2189.

TV 'JOURNAL' VIEWS MENTAL HEALTH

On Saturday, May 14 at 7 p.m., the "KCET (Channel 28) Journal" will focus on voids in the mental health system due to cutbacks in budgets and services.

The program will feature interviews with the Mental Health Association in Los Angeles County Project Return Players and personnel from the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health.

PASADENA'S SEVENTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE PLANNED MAY 21

"Community, Culture and Consciousness: Where Do We Go From Here?" is the theme of Pasadena Mental Health Center's conference.

The conference will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Saturday, May 21 at the Westminster Presbyterian Church, 1757 N. Lake, Pasadena.

Keynote speakers will be Fredericka D. Williams, M.S.W., director of Char-Lem consulting services, and Floyd Martinez, Ph.D., chief, Human Resources Development Division, Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health.

Continuing education credit for the conference is available through American Red Cross and California State University, Los Angeles. General admission is \$10.50 and \$5.50 for full-time students. Lunch is an additional \$5.

The center also offers an on-going series of stress management groups. They start on the first Monday of each month and continue for four weeks. The sessions are held from 7 to 9 p.m. at the center, 1495 N. Lake Ave., Pasadena.

For information on the community conference or the stress management groups, call the center at 798-0907.

PREVENTION MATERIALS FOR SPECIFIC POPULATIONS OFFERED

Mental health materials for specific population groups are available through the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health, according to Dr. Pamela Reager, Chief, Community Services Development Division.

These materials, from the "Friends Can Be Good Medicine" campaign, include film, slide and video presentations; brochures; and discussion guides. They address the concerns of the elderly, Native Americans, Hispanic and Asian-Pacific persons.

"Feeling Good-Body and Soul," the materials to be used in the Black community, have been available since March.

The materials are available through the department's regions. For further information, call the department's information office at 738-4961.

CONNECTIONS

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The Mental Health Association in Los Angeles County is a non-profit, voluntary organization dedicated to the promotion of mental health, prevention of mental illness and the improved care and treatment of the mentally ill. (213) 629-1527.

Executive Director: Richard Van Horn

WALK-A-THON CELEBRATES MENTAL HEALTH

Project Return members will walk from Westwood to Pacific Palisades in their first walk-a-thon, Saturday, May 21 in an effort to draw attention to May as mental health month—and to raise funds for club activities.

Project Return is a federation of self-help clubs for recovering mentally ill people, sponsored by the Mental Health Association in Los Angeles County (MHA).

The 5½-mile walk will begin at the Federal Building, 11000 Wilshire Blvd. at noon and end with a picnic and raffle of prizes for participants at 3 p.m. in Palisades Park, Ocean Avenue and San Vicente Boulevard, Santa Monica.

Project Return members are currently soliciting sponsors for the walk. Sponsors are asked to determine how much they wish to contribute and to pay "up front." All donations are tax deductible.

Public participation is encouraged, both by sponsoring participants and by walking. "The walk is open to anyone," said John Siegel, Project Return director.

"The walk should be great for physical education enthusiasts on all levels," said Siegel. "The walk is along a bus route so people can vary the length of their walk and jump on the bus if they need to."

Siegel and club members are currently working to attract sponsors to donate prizes, food and supplies for the picnic.

For further information, to sponsor a walker or to make a donation, call MHA, 629-1527.

FOUNTAIN HOUSE OPENS DOORS TO PORTALS

Portals House clinical director and two members will be spending two weeks at Fountain House in New York City to learn more about its philosophy and operation.

From May 23 to June 3, they will "share ideas and learn more about this model so we can broaden our program in ways to allow members to have maximum responsibility in giving input and actually operating our program," said Susan Reilly, Ph.D., clinical director. Portals House is a private, non-profit psychosocial rehabilitation agency in Los Angeles.

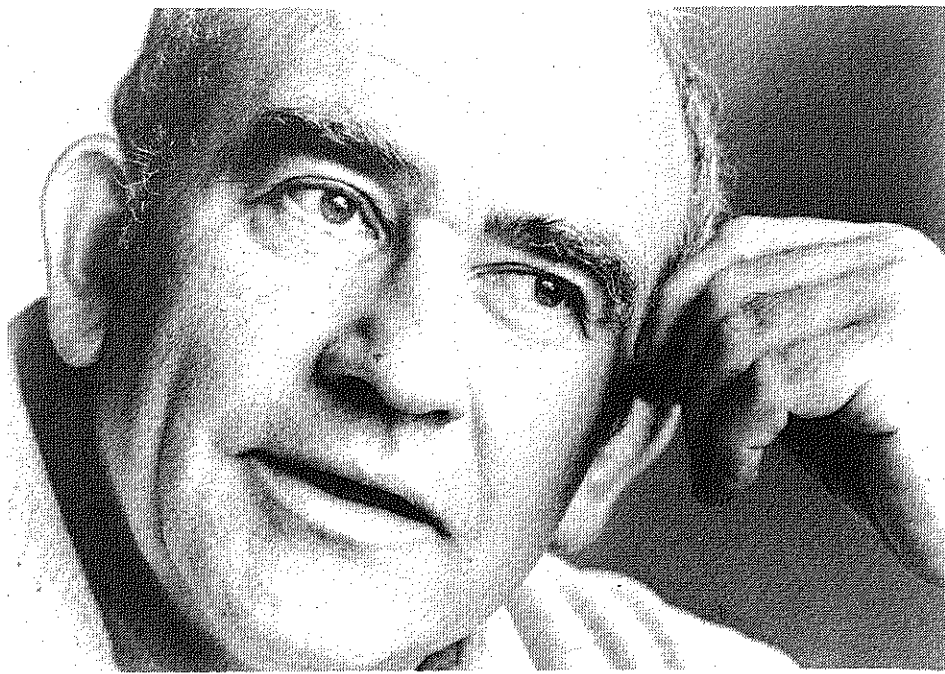
Through a National Institute of Mental Health grant, Fountain House has offered this program of training members from other psychosocial rehabilitation agencies in its philosophy. The Fountain House social and vocational clubhouse uses a self-help model with members taking major responsibility for its management. Reilly said that she wants to bring that idea back to Portals.

"The whole idea is to have members assume a leadership role in further developing the Portals program," she said. "We're looking to maximize members' responsibility in operating our program. We want to enhance members' opportunities for decision making."

Portals was invited, she said, "because our philosophy for many years has been one of members helping themselves."

Portals members took part in the process of selecting the two members making the trip, nominating five persons. These were reviewed and interviewed by a staff panel who made the final selections.

Additionally, Ron Scherer, director of the Portals Transitional Employment Program, will join the other three for the first week of the visit.



Edward Asner

ED ASNER JOINS IN HONORING OSTROW

Actor Ed Asner will serve as honorary chairperson at the Mental Health Association in Los Angeles County (MHA) benefit dinner dance, Saturday, June 4 in the Grand Ballroom of the Beverly Wilshire Hotel.

Highlight of the event will be the presentation of the annual Performance Award to philanthropist Seniel Ostrow. Ostrow was chosen to receive the award by the Mental Health Association board of directors.

"We are honoring Mr. Ostrow's lifetime of service to those in need," said Bette Caraway, MHA board president, "and especially his service to community mental health."

"At 86 he is still sharing his energy and resources with a variety of worthy causes. He is a living example to all of us in our own struggle to be generous and productive people in our community," said Caraway.

Asner, best known for the character Lou Grant which he created on "The Mary Tyler Moore Show" and later played in his own series "Lou Grant," also praised Ostrow.

"Seniel Ostrow is possibly one of the most revered and respected men for his dedication to causes and to people. He's one of those rare birds who's not only been a role model for others but in turn he and his wife have created children who are role models. He's a classic example of humanitarianism."

Ostrow bought the name of the then-defunct Sealy Mattress Co. in the 1920s. He built the company into a national success.

During the McCarthy era he sponsored such outspoken commentators as Chet Huntley, Charles Collingwood and Howard K. Smith.

At Duarte's City of Hope, the Richard W. Lippman building, given by Ostrow, bears the name of the young doctor admired by Ostrow for his stand against the McCarthy smears of the '50s.

The International Students Center building at UCLA and a \$500,000 gift to Technion-Israel Institute of Technology, are tributes to Ostrow's generosity.

He raised funds for California's first

Mexican-American organization, the Community Service Organization and co-founded the Institute for the Study of Democratic Institutions in Santa Barbara.

To support the Central City Community Mental Health Center in Watts, Ostrow invited 12 friends to lunch, told them he was giving \$100,000 and asked them each to either raise or give \$10,000. "We started out with \$220,000," he said.

Ostrow's second wife, Laurie (Zarren) Ostrow, is president of the American Civil Liberties Union Foundation of Southern California. He was married to his late first wife, Dorothy for 50 years.

Honorary dinner chairperson is Ben Winters and Margie Bulmer is the Benefit Committee chair.

Serving with Asner as event co-chairs are Steven D. Brody, Bernard Ceazan, Alexander Coler, Lester Deutsch, Sanford Kaplan, Norman Lear, Edward M. Marks, Frederick M. Nicholas, Max Palevsky, Mark Schulman, Percy Solotoy, Joseph H. Weisman, William Winter, Sidney Wolberg, Irving Zeiger and Paul Zifren.

"I've long been aware of the responsibility healthy individuals have to those who have mental disabilities," said Asner. In portraying Norman Cousins in my latest project, "Anatomy of an Illness", I've been reminded of the great power the mind has over our bodies, and that reminder inspires me to even greater responsibility."

"Anatomy of an Illness" will air in the fall, and Asner is currently filming "A Case of Libel," based on Louis Nizer's book, for Showtime Cable System.

The recipient of seven Emmys and four Golden Globe Awards, Asner has been honored for both comedic and dramatic roles. Besides his series work in television, Asner also earned awards for his work in the mini-series "Roots" and "Rich Man, Poor Man."

Tickets for the benefit are \$125. For information about hosting a table or purchasing tickets, call the MHA benefit office, 476-9661.

LECTURE-RAP SERIES EXAMINES MARRIAGE IN THE '80s

"A Marriage Symposium—Enriching Your Relationship" lecture-rap series will be presented May 3-31 by Temple Judea Community Counseling Center.

This series of five lectures examining marriage in the '80s will be held from 8 to 10 p.m. every Tuesday in May at the Temple Sanctuary, 5429 Lindley Ave., Tarzana. Registration fee is \$20 per person for the series.

Temple Judea Community Outreach Counseling Center is a non-profit, non-denominational, non-sectarian community service organization.

The series opens on May 3 with "A Dialogue of Intimacy: How to Talk and Listen" by Dr. Walter E. Brackel-

manns, host of the nationally syndicated television program, "Couples." Brackelmanns is an adult and child psychiatrist and psychoanalyst and is assistant clinical professor of psychiatry at UCLA.

"What is This Thing Called Love" by Dr. Arthur LeBlanc, licensed clinical psychologist, follows on May 10. LeBlanc is a professor at the UCLA Medical School and author of two upcoming books, "Winning the Race against Exhaustion" and "Parents under Siege."

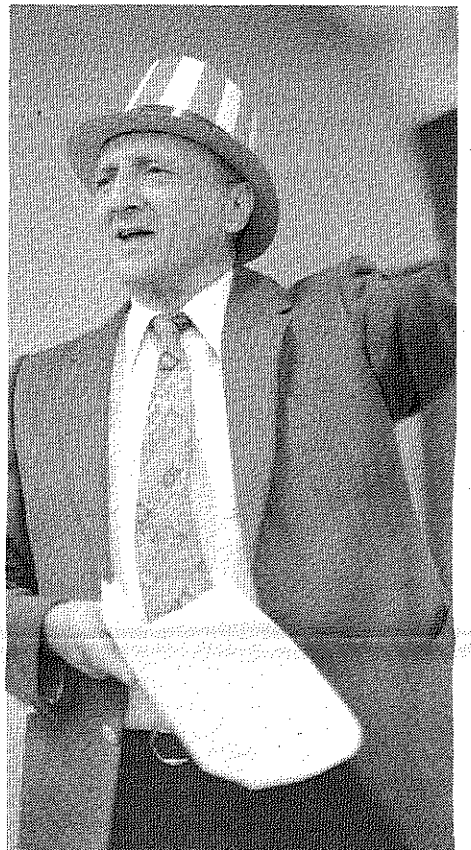
The next lecture is "Sexual Enrichment—Replacing Old Scripts with Real Communication" with Dr. Barry Reynolds, licensed clinical psychologist. He is the director of the Institute for Sex and Marital Therapy and co-director

DEPARTMENT PLANS TO GIVE WITH 'SPIRIT'

"The Giving Spirit of 76 Percent" is the theme of this year's United Way-Brotherhood Campaign in the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health, which started April 25 and is scheduled to continue to June 10.

Milton H. Miller, M.D., Coastal Region director, is chairperson of the campaign, and Roberto Quiroz, M.S.W., San Fernando/Antelope Valley Region director is vice-chairperson, both from management. Representing labor are Elizabeth Kautto, M.S.W., president of Local 2712 of the Association of Psychiatric Social Workers, and Brent Montgomery, M.S.W., who serves on the executive board and is chief steward for the union.

"Mental health is the department that cares. We hope in the next few weeks to reach and go beyond our campaign goal and then we will turn



Dr. Milton Miller

to the other important work of celebrating together," Miller said.

The 76 percent giving goal constitutes a 50 percent increase from last year's campaign, which had a 50 percent level of participation from the department.

Last year's campaign had a 200 percent gain from the previous year's level and was headed by Allan Rawland, M.S.W., San Gabriel Valley Region director. The labor representative was Kathryn Manness, M.S.W., from the Local 2712 executive board.

Announced at the April 14 campaign kick-off at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center was that the Coastal Region had received pledges to surpass its goal.

tor of the UCLA Human Sexuality Program.

On May 24, the topic is "Do I Have to Give Up Me to be Loved by You?" with Drs. Margaret and Jordan Paul, both licensed clinical psychologists. They host a human sexuality show on Cable Health "Alive and Well."

The series closes May 31 with "Can You Pass the Marriage Test?" by licensed clinical psychologist Dr. Charles Ansell. He is editor of "California Psychologist," past-president of the California State Psychological Association and faculty member of Hebrew Union College and Cambridge Graduate School.

For further information about this series, call the center at 780-4994. 3

LEGISLATIVE ANALYSIS

AB 2100 TO MAKE DRASTIC CHANGES IN SYSTEM

Scheduled for hearing in the State Assembly Local Government Committee on April 27 was AB 2100, an omnibus bill, which, among numerous other provisions, would restructure the Short-Doyle mental health system.

Introduced by Assembly member Sam Farr (D-Monterey) on March 7, the bill proposes major revisions in and redistribution of funding, program and administrative responsibility over human services programs between the state and each county.

The AB 2100 Task Force and the Mental Health Coalition in Los Angeles County have recommended "first and foremost" work toward having the mental health portions removed from the bill.

"Our reasoning is that mental health does not fit in a bill which is primarily a fiscal and government organization bill and that the approach taken in the bill with mental health, 100 percent state funding and 100 percent county administration, is 180 degrees off the basic intent of the bill, which is to have the governmental unit that funds a service be the unit that administers it," Richard Van Horn, convener of the Coalition, stated in a memorandum to Coalition members on Task Force recommendations.

The AB 2100 Task Force includes representatives from Mental Health Association, Citizens Advisory Council (CAC), California Alliance for the Mentally Ill, California Conference of Local Mental

"... Mental health does not fit in a bill which is primarily a fiscal and government organization bill ..."

Health Directors (CCLMHD), Organization of Mental Health Advisory Boards, California Council of Community Mental Health Centers and the State and Los Angeles County Departments of Mental Health.

The groups have proposed changes in the bill if the mental health sections are not deleted.

As it pertains to mental health, AB 2100 would change the location of funding and administration, alter the planning process and redefine the citizens' role.

The primary function of the State Department of Mental Health would be changed to one of promoting and supporting research. State approval of a county plan would no longer be required. The responsibility for setting standards for the training and experience of the local mental health director would be transferred to the county, as would the state hospital funds, so that counties would contract for services from the state hospitals.

The bill would provide for 100 percent county administration and operation and 100 percent state funding of the mental health program, as opposed to the current 90 percent by the state and 10 percent by the county. The funding would be determined by fiscal year 83-84 allocation for mental health services, plus Community Residential Treatment Systems (CRTS) programs and state hospital services.

Augmentation funds would be funds appropriated in 83-84 for the Office of Mental Health Social Services (OMHSS), program administration at Napa and Camarillo State Hospitals, administration and operation at Metropolitan State Hospital and central office funds no longer required.

If the state budget was for less than the base, each county would receive a proportionate share; if it was exceeded by amounts defined as program augmentation funds, cost of living adjustments or other augmentation, these increases would be distributed by a formula determined by the CCLMHD.

In its list of necessary changes if the mental health sections are not deleted, the Task Force said that 100 percent funding is acceptable, if the state recognizes with this its basic responsibility for mental health

programs, but the base formula for funding distribution should be revised in consultation with the CAC and the CCLMHD, i.e., OMHSS and the state hospital funds should be included in the base, not augmentation, any cost of living adjustment should not be considered augmentation funds and the state department of Mental Health should set the distribution formula, not the CCLMHD, but it should be set in consultation with the CAC and the CCLMHD.

Currently, each county is required to have a Short-Doyle program. Provisions in the bill would replace this requirement with a county mental health program budget, determined and adopted by each county individually.

The bill would require the local program budget to include involuntary services and CRTS. Other services, including outpatient, crisis intervention, prevention and voluntary hospitalization, would be optional.

The bill would make the county plan optional; each county may have a Short-Doyle plan which may be used as a basis for or in support of the program budget.

AB 2100 would remove all standard requirements for plans. If the Board of Supervisors elected to have a Short-Doyle plan, it would be proposed by the local mental health director with participation and involvement of the Mental Health Advisory Board (MHAB), citizens and professionals, and it would be reviewed and approved by the MHAB.

The MHAB also would be charged with making sure there is citizen participation in the planning process if there is a plan. There are no provisions in the bill for a participatory planning process for the program budget, an area with which the Task Force disagrees.

Each local MHAB, according to the bill, would review and report on the program budget and make reports to the Board of Supervisors as it requires.

But, according to the last section of the bill, each county has the option of not providing a program of any kind. "Notwithstanding any other provision of this act, no county shall be required to administer or operate any program . . . unless it agrees to do so. In counties which do not agree to do so, the state department . . . shall administer and operate the program," the bill states.

Nor does the bill require any statewide standards. It is the opinion of the Task Force that statewide standards are necessary and are implied both in the intent and structure of the bill. State authority to set standards must be made explicit, it believes, for the mobility of mentally ill persons would lead to migration to counties with higher standards.

In addition to developing the distribution formula for augmentation funds, the CCLMHD would have the responsibility of defining services for the program budget and expenditure categories.

The bill would also add to the duties of

"... No county shall be required to administer or operate any program . . . unless it agrees to do so."

the CAC the responsibility of participating in reviewing and approving development and contracting of research projects.

In addition to the sections pertaining to mental health, AB 2100 contains sections on alcohol and drug abuse programs, courts and social services.

It states that, similar to mental health changes, local alcohol and drug abuse programs would be entirely funded by the state and totally administered by each county.

The state would assume fiscal responsibility for superior, municipal and justice court operations.

It would also take over 100 percent funding of the non-federal part of administration and assistance program of the Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC), administration of the food stamps program, aid to children in in-home supportive services, protective services, out-of-home services, child welfare services and community care licensing.

The bill also contained sections on the establishment of a division of Children's

Services within the State Department of Social Services, which in 1987 would have become the State Department of Children's Services. These sections subsequently have been moved to AB 2101, also by Farr.

The intent of AB 2100, in part, is "to give counties greater discretion over local property taxes and revenues by making the state responsible for financing county costs mandated under existing law; locate the authority to make decisions about the level and type of services to be offered close to the people being served; to relieve counties of disproportionate or extraordinary financial burdens and cost shifts between counties; eliminate costly, duplicative layers of program administration; and to reduce overhead costs associated with unnecessary state requirements," it states.

The AB 2100 Task Force agrees with the deletion of excess codes relating to the plan.

AB 2100 is the result of the study authorized by AB 3231, done "to clarify and simplify state and county responsibilities for human services programs," according to the report summary. It was done by the Assembly Office of Research.

(Editor's note: To contact your legislator about removing the mental health provisions from AB2100, write to your legislator at the State Capitol, Sacramento, CA 95814.)

AB 228 TO SELL MORE METRO LAND

AB 228 would declare 50 acres of land at Metropolitan State Hospital in Norwalk surplus, allowing for its sale.

Scheduled for an April 27 hearing before the State Assembly Ways and Means Committee, the bill was introduced by Assembly member Bruce E. Young, whose district includes Norwalk, and it is opposed by the State Department of Mental Health, Mental Health Association (MHA) and California Alliance for the Mentally Ill (CAMI).

According to Ernest Klante, M.D., Metropolitan State Hospital executive director, "much of the hospital is on that 50 acres" to be deemed surplus, located on the northeast portion of the hospital grounds.

This includes building 301, the largest unit in the hospital and the only coed open psychiatric unit, housing 70 patients; the only patients' auditorium; the patient canteen; all the chapels and offices of the chaplains; all patient recreation areas, such as the softball diamond, sports field and tennis courts; and central program services, which are volunteer services and the volunteer center.

Also on the 50 acres are State Department of Vocational Rehabilitation offices and two buildings housing non-state community alcohol recovery homes and the Rio Hondo drug abuse program.

Others included are a building used for storage and one housing education offices, and four residences.

Additionally, a wing of building 302, which contains the hospital drug abuse program, is on the 50 acres. If the bill is passed, Klante said, the building will have to be torn down.

Klante said that "at first the bill provided no provision to replace those (buildings on the 50 acres). It's been amended that some of the surplus from the resale could be used."

A similar piece of legislation introduced more than a year ago was not passed. A state study done by an outside consultant at this time reported that there was no surplus land at the hospital, said Klante.

At one time, the State Department of Mental Health was projecting a decrease in all state hospital usage, including Metropolitan, according to Klante. However, the latest estimates of the department, made in a report to the Legislature in January of this year, were that the patient population would increase, including a rise to 1,400 at Metropolitan, up 500 patients, he said.

Passage of the bill would create additional problems, he said. Part of

the state hospital land has been sold in past years, with the city building up around it. He said that the community feels the hospital is impacting on the community and "this would compound the problem."

Another humanistic problem, Klante said, is that "although many patients leave (the hospital) within a few weeks, some stay a few months or years, so this is the only recreational area they have."

Parents groups are "unanimously opposed" to the legislation, according to Don Richardson, CAMI Legislative Action Committee co-chairperson. CAMI's position is that "no state hospital land should be allowed to be utilized for purposes other than mental health," said Richardson. "To sell it means it will no longer be available to the mentally ill who needs it so desperately." CAMI is statewide organization of groups of parents of the mentally ill.

"Services to the mentally ill must include all levels of service, including state mental hospitals, and since AB 228 is to sell off land at Metropolitan State Hospital, we feel once the land has been removed from the mental health system, it can never be replaced because of the astronomical costs," he said.

MHA State Public Affairs Chairperson Lynn Zender said of AB 228, "We are concerned that such a move (selling hospital land) is being tried at a time when the entire mental health program is desperately under funded and slender resources in the local community are being stretched beyond capacity, causing more pressure on state hospital resources."

(Editor's note: To express your views on AB228, contact your legislator at the State Capitol, Sacramento, CA 95814.)

BUDGET CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

tally ill in this county.

The Coalition is made up of more than 85 mental health services and interests including professional groups, non-profit agencies, consumer groups and parent groups.

Citizens are being urged by the Coalition to address their concerns about the potential cuts to their legislators.

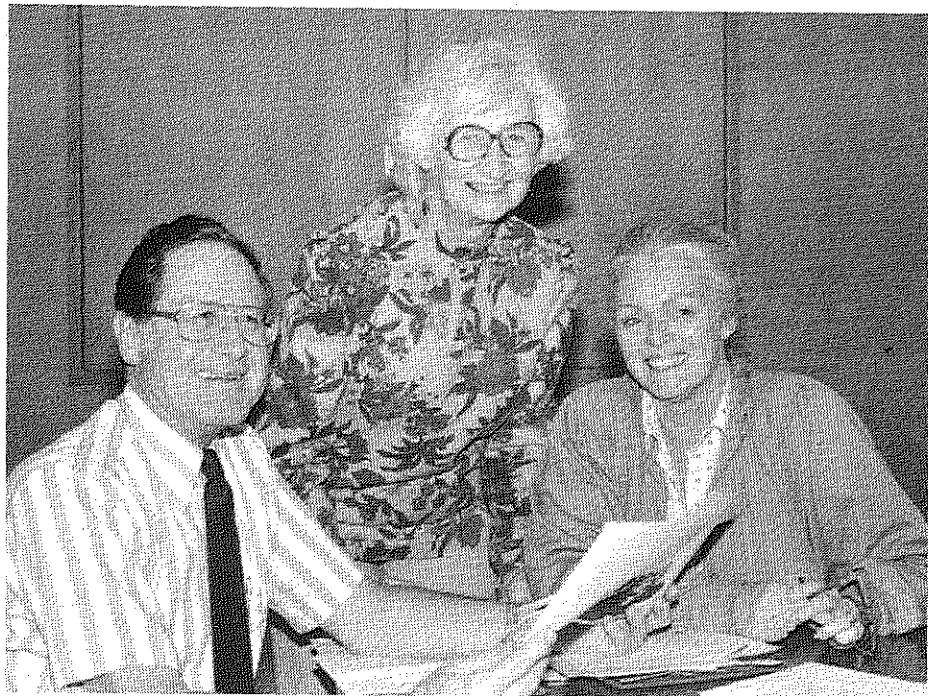
The legislature is holding budget hearings in the Assembly Ways and Means and the Senate Finance Committees.

"Changes can still be made if various groups and individuals press their legislators in Sacramento," said Richard Van Horn executive director of the Mental Health Association in Los Angeles County and convener of the Coalition.

Dr. J. Richard Elpers, director of the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health, said of the list of potential cuts, "It is a devastating series of reductions, none of which are seen by the department or the various bodies as desirable or even acceptable."

Programs to be eliminated include various 24-hour inpatient services, emergency room and short term crisis and day treatment programs, along with children and adolescent programs.

If the state budget is accepted in its present form, the \$9.7 million cuts added to the reductions taken each year since 1978-79 will total a nearly \$25 million curtailment for mental health services in Los Angeles County alone.



Chairperson of the July 15-17 CAMI conference planning committee Don Richardson with Betty Wilson and Gini Widmann (l to r).

PARENTS 'DESIGN' JULY CONFERENCE

The CAMI (California Alliance for the Mentally Ill) summer conference, "Design for Mental Health — A Team Effort," will be Friday through Sunday, July 15 through 17, at the Sportsmen's Lodge, 12833 Ventura Blvd., Studio City.

Keynote speaker Friday night will be John Van de Kamp, California attorney general. Saturday's speaker will be Dr. Samuel Keith, director of Schizophrenia Research at the National Institute of Mental Health.

Dr. J. Richard Elpers, Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health director, and Supervisor Deane Dana will welcome conference participants.

Another highlight of the conference will be the presentation of the Young Researcher Award by last year's recipient Dr. Robert Liberman who won for the Rehabilitation Medicine Service, Brentwood Division.

CAMI is an organization of 50 affiliate groups of family members and friends of persons suffering long term or recurring mental illness.

The conference, with a limited registration of 600, will feature a research update of chronic mental illness, authorities in the mental health field, public officials and legislators.

Conference chairperson Don Richardson expects CAMI members from across the state to attend.

For more information on the conference call (213) 738-4961.



CAMI summer conference planning committee members are seated (l to r) Laura Goodman, Nancy Cherney and Stella March; standing (l to r) are Bill Wardin, Cécile Jirgal, Martin Meizner and Brony Balch.



Seated (l to r) are CAMI conference planning members Rebecca Sturges, Bob Blake and Virginia Wardwell; standing are Dorothy Mattson, Paul Burk, Lucille Sunde and Beverly Samples.

SAN GABRIEL VALLEY OPEN HOUSES CELEBRATE MENTAL HEALTH MONTH

The San Gabriel Valley Region will celebrate May is Mental Health month with a schedule of "open houses" throughout the month.

Twenty-five agencies will open their doors to the public in a schedule that gives each of the region's four districts one week of events.

The first week will feature seven agencies from the Arcadia district, the second will have eight from the Pomona Valley district; five El Camino district agencies will be open the third week and five La Puente Valley district agencies the fourth week.

The event is sponsored by the RCLC with support from the Mental Health Association (MHA); the San Gabriel Valley Region, County Department of Mental Health; and the Tri-City Mental Health Authority.

"We need to make citizens aware of programs available and let them know that mental illness can happen to anyone. This can help us reduce stigma," said Lucie James, MHA San Gabriel Valley Region director.

The program has been organized by a committee that includes RCLC members Dawn Merck and Bill Stokes as co-chairs, RCLC members Terry Tibbets, Keith Rholl and Andrew O'Connor.

Paul O'Leary and Melinda Ramirez from the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health San Gabriel Valley Region also participated.

"There is a need for community education about mental health," said Merck. "This is a chance to make the public aware of the good aspects and all the mental health sources available."

"Without Allan Rawland (San Gabriel Valley Region director, Department of Mental Health), and his encouragement, we couldn't have done it. We've had great cooperation from the Department of Mental Health," said O'Connor, RCLC treasurer.

The RCLC is staffing the project, and the idea came from the RCLC and the Department of Mental Health. "The program can make the public aware of services that can be provided and make legislators aware of what could be provided," O'Connor said.

The month-long event kicked off with a breakfast April 29 prepared by client volunteers at the San Marino Community Church.

The breakfast is hosted by the MHA, Fuller I-CAN, Project Return Clubs, San Gabriel Valley Alliance for the Mentally Ill, B.R.I.D.G.E.S. Inc. and T.R.R.P.

MHA Executive Director Richard Van Horn is keynote speaker at the breakfast featuring volunteer recognition, a "Friends Can Be Good Medicine" presentation and mental health program and services information.

"We want to make people aware of what's going on in mental health where they live," said RCLC president Keith Rholl.

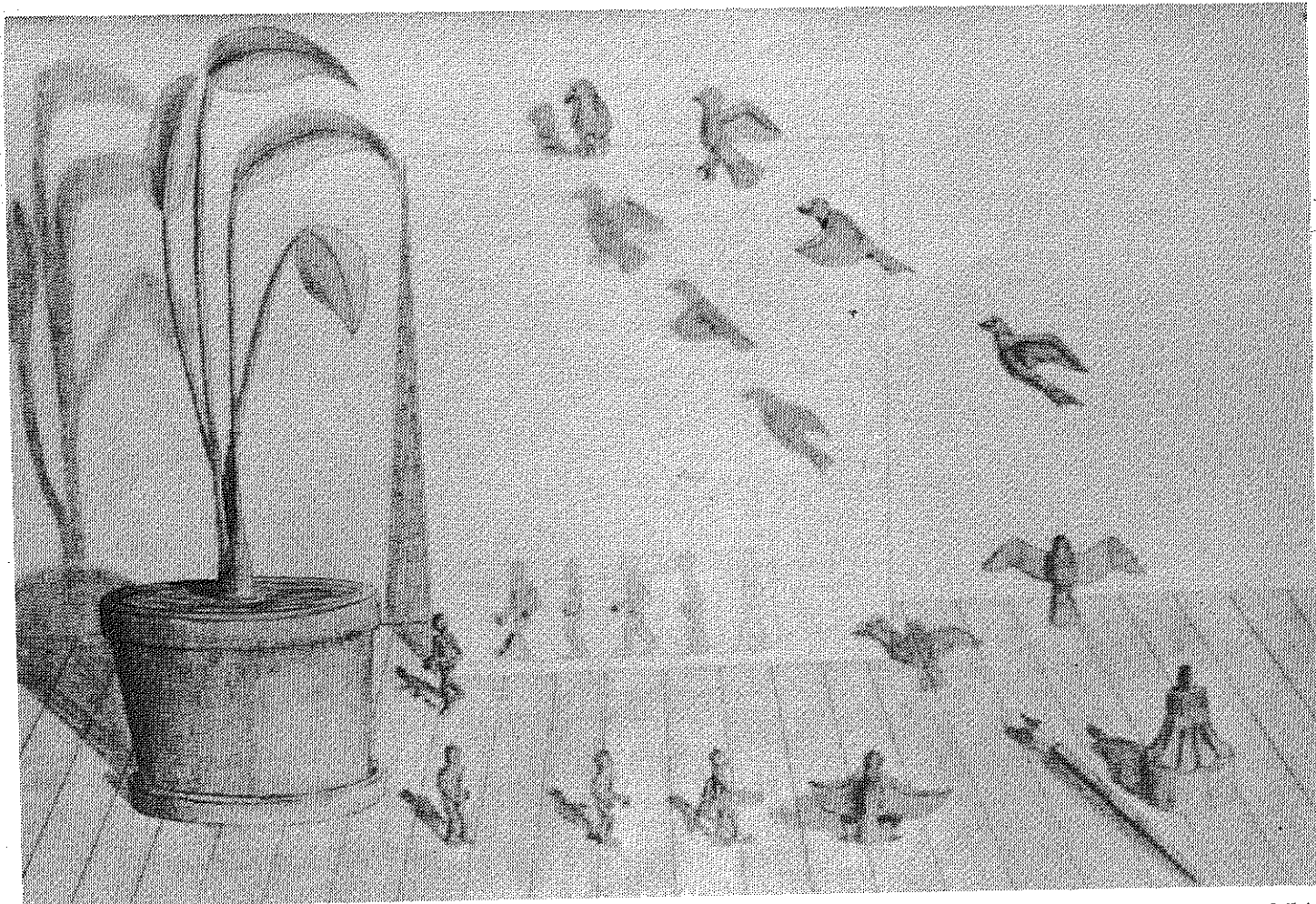
"We're hoping to get the community and community leaders to the open houses to become aware of what the agencies are doing and become acquainted so they will help support them in the future."

"With the open houses," said Rholl, "we're hoping to reach a lot more people than in a single event."

A legislative breakfast, June 3 at the Industry Hills Sheraton will end the month-long activities. All legislators from the San Gabriel Valley area have been invited.

OPEN HOUSE SCHEDULE MAY 1983

May 2	3-6 p.m.	Arcadia Mental Health Center 330 E. Live Oak Ave., Arcadia
	4-7 p.m.	Intercommunity Child Guidance Center 8106 South Broadway, Whittier
May 3	10 a.m.-noon	Methodist Hospital of Southern California 300 W. Huntington Dr., Arcadia
	7:30-9 p.m.	Ingleside Mental Health Center 7500 E. Hellman, Rosemead
May 4	2-4 p.m.	Alhambra Psychiatric Hospital 4619 N. Rosemead Blvd., Rosemead
May 5	10 a.m.-noon	Pasa Alta Manor 1792 N. Fair Oaks Ave., Pasadena
	2-4 p.m.	Methodist Hospital of Southern California 300 W. Huntington Dr., Arcadia
May 6	10 a.m.-noon	Berniece Wells Board and Care 336 S. Los Robles Ave., Pasadena
May 9	7-9 p.m.	Open Door — La Verne 752 Arrow Highway, La Verne
May 10	10 a.m.-noon	Family Service of Pomona Valley 2055 N. Garey Ave., Pomona
	7-9 p.m.	Horizon Hospital 556 N. Gordon, Pomona
May 11	1-4 p.m.	Laurel Park 1425 Laurel Ave., Pomona
May 12	1-5 p.m.	Charter Oak Psychiatric Hospital 1161 E. Covina Blvd., Covina
	1-3 p.m.	Olive Vista Hospital 2350 Culver Court, Pomona
	4-7 p.m.	B.R.I.D.G.E.S. — Pomona 1334 Orange Grove, Pomona
May 13	4-6 p.m.	Bennett Family Home 1477 Hacienda Place, Pomona
May 16	5-7 p.m.	Rio Hondo Family Service 10016 S. Pioneer Blvd., Suite 109, Santa Fe Springs
	7-8 p.m.	Presbyterian Intercommunity Hospital 12401 E. Washington Blvd., Whittier
May 17	1-3:30 p.m.	Elm Hill Guest Home 13749 S. Crewe, Whittier
	4:30-6:30 p.m.	El Camino Mental Health Center 11721 E. Telegraph Road, Santa Fe Springs
May 18	1:30-3:30 p.m.	Villa Morenz 10916 Stamy Road, Whittier
May 23	4-7 p.m.	B.R.I.D.G.E.S. — El Monte 11931 Elliott St., El Monte
	7-9 p.m.	Edgewood Family Service 155 W. College, Covina
May 24	6-8 p.m.	Sierra Royale Hospital 125 W. Sierra Madre Ave., Azusa
May 25	4-6 p.m.	La Puente Valley Community Mental Health Center 160 S. Seventh Ave., La Puente
May 27	noon-5 p.m.	Tri-City Mental Health, (Casa De Esperanza) 153 Pomona Mall — West, Pomona



Greg Abarta, 11th grade student at Arcadia High School, won first place in the "Expressing Feelings Through Art" youth art exhibit project. Six honorable mentions were also awarded. The project is sponsored by the Children's Citizens Advisory Committee to the Children and Youth Services Bureau of the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health with the purpose of bringing public attention to the mental health needs of children and youth and to celebrate Mental Health Month. Artwork by high school students in the Los Angeles Unified School District and Los Angeles County Schools will be on display through May at the Exploratorium Gallery in the California State University at Los Angeles student union. Display hours are from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays and from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Fridays. Groups requesting a weekend tour may contact Linda Lyons, gallery curator, at 224-2189.

MINTZ CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

educational opportunities to its members through meetings and workshops "some on treatment and some on legislative issues."

When Mintz first joined the Society 25 years ago, he says the focus of the low-key Society was on education. "Now we devote time to analysis of effects of proposed state and national legislation.

"At any one time there may be more than 100 pieces of legislation that effect patients and psychiatrists — some are terrible and others just confusing. We try to understand the thrust of the legislation and see where we can have input — we try to transmit our experience and point of view into the legislative process."

The Society has been working to insure that the new state director of mental health is "an 'experienced mental health clinician'." We believe that the budget can only realistically be dealt with by someone with clinical experience who can assess the consequences of options on patients being served."

Official Society opposition is now being leveled against AB 3480 which allows insurance companies or others to set up panels of selected providers at alternative rates, which the Society believes would limit freedom of choice of physicians.

"We're especially concerned," says Mintz, "that some health care delivery innovations interfere with adequate access to necessary mental health treatment."

As examples Mintz cites Health Maintenance Organizations (HMO) and Preferred Provider Organization (PPO) plans "which have surgeons or internists acting as gatekeepers. They may not have the skill or experience to make medically proper decisions and the most effective referrals.

"We will continue to speak out on behalf of the welfare of pa-

tients. We live in a time of economic pressure and there is a serious danger that a quick fix could be adopted with inadequate concern for quality of care."

Mintz was installed as president in April and will serve a one-year term as leader of the approximately 16,000-member professional organization.

Most of the work of the society is done in special interest committees, the chairs of which make proposals for action. There is an ethics committee, a child and adolescent committee (which makes recommendations on legislation positions) and active committees on Medi-Cal, government affairs, peer review, relations with medicine, and private practice.

Two hundred of the Society's members sit on the various com-

"The public needs protection . . . they purchase insurance with inadequate psychiatric coverage."

mittees, most of which meet monthly.

All types of services are represented in society membership, including academic, research and public administration. SCPS members are joint members of the American Psychiatric Association.

"Various mental health disciplines have areas of disagreement," says Mintz, "but there are areas we can cooperate to a greater extent than in the past. We can consult and cooperate on legislative matters, court cases and public relations. I intend to foster constructive cooperation."

"In times of change," says Mintz, "it is important that knowledgeable people come together and express their collective advice. The SCPS offers a channel for individual expression of opinions, attitudes or wishes, and a chance to pursue special interests."

A major project of the Society has been a continuing statewide program to educate employers on

the importance of adequate mental health coverage.

"We feel the public needs protection. When people get health insurance they make sure they're covered for a heart attack, yet they purchase insurance with little or inadequate psychiatric coverage. The possibility of mental illness never occurs to them."

Communication among Society members is done largely through a monthly newsletter which shares news of what the committees are doing and legislation being followed. "We try to encourage participation by all the members."

Mintz himself has served the SCPS on seven committees, including those of therapeutic methods and legislative affairs and chaired committees on peer review and judicial action.

Mintz became involved in his field of special interest, treatment of suicidal persons, during his residency at UCLA. He has since had nearly a dozen articles on the subject printed in a variety of journals.

As president, Mintz will not only write a monthly column for the newsletter, but attend quarterly meetings of the California Psychiatric Association, and meetings of the American Psychiatric Association of which the SCPS is the second largest branch. "The APA attempts to combine the thinking of the branches to develop consensus."

"Psychiatry feels a responsibility for acting in the best interests of current and prospective patients who may have little knowledge of the possible effects of proposed legislation.

"I know of instances of Medically Indigent Adults (MIAs) who were in psychiatric treatment and who now are not seeking or getting treatment they require. They are unwilling to seek help in the county system.

"We who can anticipate the effect of changes in the budget, health care delivery and changes in regulations have to speak up to protect the quality of health care, its availability and access to it."

DEPARTMENT 95 CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

that the court preference was for permanent facilities for the mental health courts (Department 95).

"But, recognizing the county's present financial constraints . . . (the court) requests that your Board approve the CAO's report and recommendations (to renovate the existing facility) as the most practical course of action consistent with good patient care and efficient court operations."

The Grand Juror's Association in opposing the move to Metropolitan State Hospital said, "We believe the evidence is clear that this (move) would be prohibitively expensive and would greatly inconvenience the majority of patients as well as clinical staff members who appear at the Court and who are located in other facilities throughout the County."

The Board of Directors of the Mental Health Association in Los Angeles County said in a letter to Supervisor Deane Dana, "Our major concern is for the welfare of the mentally ill clients, and we feel that further postponement of this corrective work is detrimental to their best interests. The client input to us is that they do not want the court in a hospital setting and that the current setting needs to be upgraded."

Department 95 hears cases involving conservatorships, certifications for involuntary hospitalization for those meeting the criteria under the Lanterman/Petris/Short Act (LPS), process of writs of habeas corpus and matters dealing with mentally retarded persons. The court also handles Penal Code cases referred from other courts.

In a year, more than 8,000 LPS cases alone are heard about the individual's mental competency. The court must determine if the person is a danger to self or others or gravely disabled.

In a report to the Board, Supervisor Deane Dana said he met with the respective Mental Health Court departments, the Chief Administrative Officer for Los Angeles County and the County Engineer to verify that an effective search had been made for a more suitable facility before recommending the renovation of the existing building.

To address some of the other concerns of the court and the Department of Mental Health, Dana also included in his recommendation that an informal task force be established with Superior Court, Mental Health Department, District Attorney, Public Defender, Public Guardian, County Counsel, and Sheriff "for the purpose of reviewing and reporting back to this Board the following:

"Feasibility of implementing a court procedure wherein court release of mental health patients shall stipulate that such release will become effective upon subsequent transportation back to the originating psychiatric facility."

"Feasibility and potential cost of utilizing closed circuit television to permit psychiatric staff to present court testimony and evidence from their respective institution as a means of reducing their non-productive court attendance time.

"Possible changes in the conduct of Mental Health Court proceedings which would further enhance the care and treatment of the mental health patients and the required legislative package for implementing the same.

"Subsequent to passage of proposed legislation, request that the above task force convene again to review what facility changes would be required to implement improvements in the Mental Health Court proceedings."

Dana, chairperson of the Mental Health Department, was successful in bringing together the various points of view.



Gerald McFadden

WEINGART CENTER SERVES SKID ROW

When the Weingart Center opened last month, it not only culminated four years of planning and 18 months of renovation, but it set an example of how health services can be delivered to a needy population.

Says director Gerald McFadden, the center (the rebuilt El Rey Hotel) "is a shopping center approach to health services. A client could receive housing, food and medical, mental and social care."

The center opened for clients and began delivering services on April 18. The center opened its temporary housing on April 25.

The center will provide detoxification services for both men and women in separate facilities. "We are looking to reduce the visibility of public inebriates," says McFadden.

There will be a community health clinic and 220 units of short-term housing. "We will rent rooms temporarily to people referred from the Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) until an aid program for them is worked out."

Long-term housing for elderly and handicapped downtown residents will be available in 120 units.

The community health center boasts a fully-equipped lab and will have facilities for emergency treatment and acute medical care.

Negotiations are ongoing to provide a mental health service out-station at the center. Also planned is a non-enebriate drop-in center, "for those who need a safe, clean place to come; to write letters, watch television, get light nutrition (coffee and juice) and take showers.

"We at the center want to be a broker of services through community service providers." Both the health clinic and alcohol division are moving to the center from other locations, "to increase the flow of clients through the services."

There will also be a multilingual information and referral service to speak to the needs of the groups using the center. "We can serve as the conduit to help people receive the broad range of public services."

McFadden estimates the center will serve a stable population of more than 10,000. "The population here is changing — it is getting younger (war babies grown up) and more diversified.

"Some are down and out and many are mentally ill; people just check out of society, they can turn to drugs, alcohol or a different lifestyle.

"We are also sensitive to the number of children in the area. To see a small child carrying a carton of milk behind an inebriated person is a hell of a sight."

McFadden is working with Para Los Ninos (For the Children) "to provide a continuum of care. The needs of children are a high priority.

"The impact of the center will be significant," says McFadden. "The philosophy is a broad-based partnership between the private and public sectors and the business community.

McFadden says, "The center is the result of a funding partnership between the county, federal grants, loans obtained by Volunteers of America, the business community and corporations. The center is a collective effort.

"The center, a Volunteers of America (VOA) package, is the only model of its type. We would like to market it in the rest of the country." The VOA, with McFadden as Central City Division director, is administering the center.

In its tenant-landlord relationships, the center will house a large staff, though not necessarily VOA workers. "The different departments and agencies will bring their own people here." There will be a core staff responsible for housing, food service and upkeep.

The center is named for Ben Weingart, former owner, who donated the building to the VOA "for use as a multi-faceted human services facility."

The center is funded through the Weingart Foundation, which contributed heavily to the renovation, "and by a partnership of organizations and corporations working together."

As director, McFadden is responsible for programs in the Central City Services Division which includes administration of the Weingart Center.

"The job includes function planning, coordination and development and implementation of effective services to clients. I will also strive to insure viability.

"I am anxious, excited and ready for the challenge," says McFadden. "I want to see the system up and running to positively impact the downtown community."

McFadden predicted the center would be inundated after its mid-April opening. "I think we'll impact the area by providing a broader base for services, serving inebriates, women, children, senior citizens, minorities; those in infancy to those over 60 with medical and mental health services."

According to McFadden, more than 30 community agencies, "a majority of public providers," were involved in the planning of the Weingart Center. "People involved in the program have lived on the streets and gone through the programs. The input has been far-reaching, from the streets to the towers downtown. We have tried to determine the needs and wants of people at both ends of the spectrum, residents and the business community, and the people in between."

At a cost in excess of \$9 million, the center is part of the revitalization of Skid Row. "The Weingart Center is a physical change with a service emphasis. It is a partnership to provide a better base of service to Skid Row residents and reduce the detrimental impact of the transient and inebriate on the community around us.

"We want to be a vital service center to residents."

RAPE TREATMENT CENTER PRIORITY INCLUDES CHANGING SOCIAL POLICY

A rape occurred every six minutes in 1981, according to the FBI Uniform Crime Report. One out of every 15 of these was in Los Angeles County.

The rate of reported rape has doubled in the last 10 years, and the county has one of the highest rates of reported rape among large cities in the United States, according to Gail Abarbanel, L.C.S.W., founder and director of the Rape Treatment Center (RTC) at Santa Monica Hospital Medical Center. She said that it is unknown if these facts are due to an increase in rapes or an increase in reports.

The Rape Treatment Center provides victims with assistance in all aspects of post-rape trauma, offering medical care, legal assistance and counseling services. The center is a free, 24-hour comprehensive care facility and has developed a therapeutic model that has been used in hospitals and other agencies throughout the country. Since its 1974 opening, this non-profit agency has provided services to more than 4,000 victims and their families.

It is funded by Santa Monica Hospital Medical Center, grants and private donations.

The center is there to provide "every kind of help a rape victim needs in one place" so a victim in "this kind of crisis and stress" does not have to go to more than one facility, according to Abarbanel, who is also director of Social Services and Community Services at the medical center.

RTC is concerned not only with the physical and psychological aspects of sexual assault, but addresses the legal and social aspects as well.

"A big part of the Rape Treatment Center philosophy is that part of treatment is to change the system so the system doesn't further victimize someone who has been raped," she said. "When we identify a problem in a particular case, we try to see if the social policy needs to be changed, whether it (the policy) is in legislation, police department procedures or the prosecution of the case in the criminal justice system."

An example of this philosophy in action was when the RTC initiated, authored and testified on a bill in 1980 to change what Abarbanel described as an "archaic, discriminatory aspect of the law."

This action, which resulted in a law taking effect in January 1981, stemmed from the rape of a woman passenger by a bus driver.

At that time, California law contained a victim resistance standard, which stated that a person must resist unless resistance is prevented by threats of great bodily harm.

In this case, the victim, due to her fear, was in a state of shock and so was unable to put up any resistance. Because of this, her case was never prosecuted, but was "used as a basis and was an excellent tool to have to change the law. It really helped us to present in a clear way the unfairness, the totally wrong notion in the law," Abarbanel said.

Abarbanel said that "some of the misconceptions and attitudes perpetuate the crime." Besides misconceptions about resisting, there is a myth that says there must always be great physical injury with a rape, and another that says there is some questions about the rape if the victim delays reporting it.

Delayed reporting is a "natural phenomenon in rape cases," said Abarbanel. "A lot of behavior and responses of rape trauma were misinterpreted and used to discredit a victim's report."

The RTC staff specializes in treating rape trauma, according to Abarbanel.

"We only have professional staff here," she said. "We don't have any volunteers because we feel rape trauma is serious and it requires a mental health professional to provide treatment." The therapists at the center are L.C.S.W.s.

Abarbanel said that an "important part in the immediate aftermath is medical care" but "in terms of severity, seriousness and long lasting effects, the psychological impact of the crime is the most far reaching."

Services at the RTC are based on client need, and there is no time limitation on counseling, which may be short or long term.

Clients in the program may be those from the hospital emergency room after an assault, or they may be referred or call for counseling. The center even has seen women several years after their assault.

"There are many women who were

raped and never told anyone. They carry it around and then something happens that reopens it or makes it possible for them to deal with it," said Abarbanel.

RTC also provides legal assistance to the victims when reporting the assault and going through the court system.

"We try to provide all the supports that will enable and encourage them to report the crime and go through the criminal justice system. It really helps them regain a feeling of power and control," Abarbanel said.

In addition to direct services to victims, the RTC also offers free community services.

It is now contributing to the Los Angeles Police Department, with Abarbanel teaching a course in victimology at the police academy. The course will be "given to every new recruit as part of training to deal with victims of all violent crimes," she said, with the purpose of enhancing "the skills of all people who provide services to victims, so victims will receive more sensitive and effective treatment."

RTC made a film, "Rape: Caring for Victims," for the National Rape Center, part of National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), which is available through free loan from NIMH. It is directed at emergency room and medical personnel and is "about care that should be provided," according to Abarbanel. It won awards at the 1982 American and International Film Festivals.

"I think the reason it's winning awards



Gail Abarbanel, L.C.S.W.

is because it incorporates mental health principles into emergency delivery of care for these patients," she said.

A just-released film done by the center and Los Angeles County school system was made to educate school counselors about how to counsel adolescent rape victims in school, because "many kids who are raped but don't tell anyone show signs in the school system," according to Abarbanel.

RTC has a special "acquaintance" rape prevention program for high schools because teen-agers are at higher risk for "acquaintance" rape than for "stranger" rape.

"In every class we do, there's at least one kid who tells us she's been raped," Abarbanel said.

RTC also has seminars and workshops for civic groups, senior citizens, churches, temples and staff at other agencies.

The center has developed a booklet on "Taking Action: What to Do if You Are Raped" containing information for victims and those in contact with them about medical and legal procedures and psychological effects of rape.

This free booklet is available to "any professional that might have contact with victims and needs to know what to do," she said. Persons interested in obtaining a copy of this booklet may write or call the center.

Abarbanel added that the center is available as a resource to persons who need information about rape, who need to refer someone for counseling or who need information for themselves or their staff.

The Rape Treatment Center at Santa Monica Hospital Medical Center is located at 1225 15th St., Santa Monica, CA 90404. Its phone number is (213) 451-1511.

CALENDAR

May 1, 15

California Family Study Center: The Human Relationship film festival will end with two showings. On May 1, "Two for the Road" will be shown, followed by speakers Edwin S. Cox, Ph.D., center president, and Hadley Fitzgerald, M.A., center faculty. On May 15, the showings will be "Everybody Rides the Carousel" and "Birth without Violence," caroused by speaker Julian Norton-Ford, Ph.D., center director of research. The films will be shown at 10:30 a.m. at the Brentwood Theatres, 2425 Wilshire Blvd., Santa Monica. Donation is \$5.
Call 843-0711 for more information.

May 2, 17, 23, 30

Help Anorexia: The South Bay self-help group will meet at 7 p.m. at St. Margaret Mary Church meeting room, 255th and Eshelman Streets, Lomita.
Call 326-2763, 6-8 p.m., for information.

May 2, 16

Help Anorexia: The West Los Angeles self-help group will meet at 7:30 p.m. at the Federal Building, room 10124, 11000 Wilshire Blvd., West Los Angeles.
Call 558-0444 for more information.

May 2, 9, 16, 23

Manos de Esperanza, San Fernando Valley Community Mental Health Centers Inc: Topics for the in-service training sessions, held 10 a.m. to noon at 6740 Kester Ave., Van Nuys, will be a film, "Running My Way," on May 2; "The Nagging Partner: Clinical Implications" on May 9; "A Critique of Family Therapy: Class, Sex and Cultural Biases" on May 16; and "Structuring Interview with Sexually Molested Child" on May 23. These are open to mental health professionals.
Call 988-8050, ext. 249, for details.

May 3

Advocates for the Mentally Ill and Central Valley Mental Health Center: A parents support group will meet from 6 to 8 p.m. at the center, 8101 Sepulveda Blvd., Van Nuys.
Call Vivian Isenberg at 901-0327 for more information.

May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

Ups and Downs: This self-help group for persons with depression or manic-depressive illnesses will meet from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. at 6740 Kester, Van Nuys. There will be a speaker on May 31.
Call 988-8050 for more information.

May 3

Airport Marina Counseling Center: A free introductory seminar on "Gaining Control of Your Money," led by George Jacobs, M.F.C.C., former C.P.A., will be offered from 12:30 p.m. to 2 p.m. at the center, 6228 W. Manchester Ave., Westchester.
Call 670-1410 for more information.

May 4

California Hispanic Psychological Association: "Latina Women: Searching for a Critical Focus" with Ruth Zambrana, Ph.D., dean of the Graduate School, Wright Institute of Los Angeles, will be the topic of the open forum, held from 7 to 9:30 p.m. at the Neuropsychiatric Institute, sixth floor conference room, 760 Westwood Blvd., Los Angeles.

May 4

Countywide Interagency Committee on Mental Health: The committee 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.

May 4, 11, 18, 25

East Compton Park: A family outreach program will meet at 1 p.m. at the park, 5116 S. Atlantic Blvd., Compton.
Call Barbara Taylor at 639-4080 for more information.

May 5

Central City Community Mental Health Center: A Cinco de Mayo celebration, with pinatas, mental health materials and entertainment, will be held in the center's multipurpose room, 4211 S. Avalon, Los Angeles.
Call 232-4111 for more information.

May 6

Camarillo State Hospital: An open house, with a program, booths and tours, will be held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the hospital, 1878 S. Lewis Road, Camarillo.
Call hospital volunteer services at (805) 484-3661 for more information.

May 7, 13

Los Angeles Commission on Assaults Against Women: Free self-defense workshops preparing women to deal with sexual assault both psychologically and physically will be offered at three locations. On May 7, the class will be offered from 10:45 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. at Rogers Park senior citizens room, 300 W. Beach St., Inglewood, and from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Antioch University, room four, 300 Rose Ave., Venice. On May 13, it will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the National Council of Jewish Women auditorium, 543 N. Fairfax Ave., Los Angeles.
Call 651-3147 for more information.

May 9

South Bay Board and Care Operators Group: The group will meet at 2 p.m. at Torrance First Christian Church, 2930 El Dorado, Torrance.
Call 518-6870 for more information.

May 9

National Association of Social Workers Peace and Action Council: "Bombs Will Make the Rainbow Break," a film on nuclear threat though the eyes of children, will be presented at 7 p.m. at Andrew Norman Hall, Orthopedic Hospital, 2400 S. Flower, Los Angeles. Audience response and a group discussion by children will follow the film. Donation is \$1.
Call 391-3706 or 396-1752 for details.

May 9

Help Anorexia: The monthly speaker meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. at Torrance Memorial Hospital, 3330 Lomita Blvd., Torrance, and will have Tony Aloia, Ph.D., as speaker.
Call 326-3763, 6-8 p.m., for information.

May 11

Relatives and Friends of the Mentally Disabled in Redondo Beach: The group will meet from 10 a.m. to noon at the Office of Mental Health Social Services, 2810 Artesia Blvd., Suite D, Redondo Beach.
Call 772-2188 for more information.

May 11, 25

Mental Health Association in Los Angeles County and Augustus F. Hawkins Mental Health Center: A family and friends support group will meet at 5:30 p.m. at the center, room 1119, 1720 E. 120th St., Los Angeles.
Call 629-1527 for more information.

May 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 766-5663 for more information.

May 11

Mental Health Department, Glendale Adventist Medical Center: The department will have an open house with displays and films. Tours will be held from 1:30 to 5:30 p.m. and from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. At 7:30 p.m., the Public Forum, held in the main auditorium, will have John Balog, M.D., speaking on "How to Change a S.A.D. Lifestyle into a H.A.P.P.Y. One." The center is located at 1509 Wilson Terrace, Glendale. The mental health department is celebrating "Twenty Years of Caring" during Mental Health Month.
Call 240-8000 for more information.

May 12

Advocates for the Mentally Ill: "We're Making It," in which three former mental health patients — David Hersh, president of David Hersh and Associates; Judy Cooperberg, Mental Health Association in Los Angeles County (MHA) staff; and Bill Thomas, MHA in California vice-president—share their stories, will be presented at the AMI meeting. It will be held at 7 p.m. at Thaliens Community Mental Health Center, 8730 Alden Dr., Los Angeles.

May 12

South Bay Adult School: "Reaching the Hard to Reach," a second four-week lecture series for families of chronically mentally ill persons, will be held Thursdays from 7:30 to 9 p.m. at Redondo High School, room 803, Diamond and Francisca Streets, Redondo Beach, and will be presented by Gary Rusth, M.S.
Call 857-8424 for more information.

May 13

Alliance for the Mentally Ill — San Gabriel Valley: Dr. Samuel Rapport, Metropolitan State Hospital medical director, will speak on "Pros and Cons of Medication" and "Can We Get an Accurate Diagnosis?" at the 7:15 p.m. meeting, held at San Marino Community Church, 1750 Virginia Road, San Marino.
Call 449-4217 or 797-3562 for more information.

May 14

University of Southern California College of Continuing Education: A one-day seminar on "Potential Suicide: Recognition and Prevention Strategies" will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Davidson Conference Center, USC, Los Angeles. Fee is \$85.
Call 743-4343 for more information.

May 14

UCLA Extension Department of Continuing Education in Health Sciences: "Diagnosis and Psychotherapy of Personality Disorders," offering theoretical and practical information on psychotherapy with personality-disordered persons, will be held 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. in 247 Kinsey Hall, UCLA. Fee is \$100 with six hours of credit available.
Call 825-6701 for more information.

May 14

Portals House: The S.O.S. (Socials on Saturdays) Dance will be held from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. at Wilshire Christian Church, 634 S. Normandie, Los Angeles. Admission is 25 cents. Hosted by the S.O.S. Club of Portals members, the dance is open to board and care home residents and community mental health program clients.
Call 386-5393 for more information.

May 15

Southeast Mental Health Region, Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health: The Headstart Program of the Charles R. Drew Post Graduate School will be discussed by staff Phillipa Johnson and Phyllis West and parent Lander Davis on the "A Healthy Mind: For You and Your Family" radio show. Hosted by the region's Julius I. Fuller, M.S.W., the program will air at 8 p.m. on KACE, 103.9 FM.

May 16

South Bay Relatives and Friends: The group will meet at 7 p.m. at Torrance First Christian Church, 2930 El Dorado, Torrance.
Call 518-6870 for more information.

May 19

Hollywood Human Services Project Mental Health Task Force: Teen Line will be the topic of the noon meeting, with program director Dr. Elaine Leader moderating a panel from Teen Line and Operations House. It will be held at Cedars Sinai Medical Center, room 208, 8700 Beverly Blvd., Los Angeles.
Call 467-3605 for more information.

May 20

El Centro Human Services Corp.: A benefit premiere performance of "Zorba," starring Anthony Quinn, will be held at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, 135 N. Grand Ave., Los Angeles. A reception will follow. Tickets are \$75; reserved seats will be in the orchestra section.
Call 264-8336 for more information.

May 20

Southern California Psychoanalytic Society and Institute and Cedars Sinai Medical Center Department of Psychiatry: The 15th Franz Alexander Memorial Lectureship will have guest lecturer Merton M. Gill, M.D., speaking on "The Psychoanalytic Paradigm and Transference." It will be held at 8 p.m. in the Harvey Morse Conference Center of Cedars Sinai, 8700 Beverly Blvd., Los Angeles.
Call Dr. Frank Williams at 855-3561 for more information.

May 20

Alliance for the Mentally Ill — Norwalk: A special pot luck dinner in observance of Schizophrenia Day will be held at 7 p.m. at the Volunteer Center of Metropolitan State Hospital, 11400 Norwalk Blvd., Norwalk. Suggested contribution is \$5.
Call 864-4412 for more information.

RCLC

The Regional Community Liaison Committee (RCLCs), citizens advisory groups providing input to the five regions of the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health, will meet as follows:

May 12

Coastal Region RCLC will meet at 6:45 p.m. at the Harbor-UCLA Medical Center, conference room 8-East, 1000 W. Carson St., Torrance.
Call 533-3154 for more information.

May 13

San Fernando/Antelope Valley Region RCLC will meet from 10 a.m. to noon at regional headquarters, 5077 Lankershim Blvd., suite 400, North Hollywood.
Call 508-7800 for more information.

May 18

Central Region RCLC will meet at 7:30 p.m. at the LACUSC Medical Center Psychiatric Hospital, room 2C18, 1934 Hospital Place, Los Angeles.
Call 226-6424 for more information.

May 19

Southeast Region RCLC will meet at 1:30 p.m. at St. Mathias Catholic Church, 3095 E. Florence, Huntington Park.
Call 603-4884 for more information.

These meetings are open to the public.

San Gabriel Valley Region RCLC will not have its regular meeting this month, due to special activities planned for "May is Mental Health Month."

May 25

Anorexia Nervosa and Associated Disorders: ANAD, a self-help group, will meet at 8 p.m. at 18345 Ventura Blvd., suite 414, Tarzana.
Call Suzy Green, Ph.D., at 343-9105 for more information.

May 26

Mental Health Advisory Board: The board will meet at noon at the Hall of Administration, room 739, 500 W. Temple St., Los Angeles.
Call 738-4772 for more information.

May 27

Project Focus, Focus Center for Education and Development: "Decision Making and Values Clarification" is a two-day training session with special emphasis on implementing values clarification/decision making techniques with the Hispanic community. Designed for persons working with youth, the session will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Coldwater Canyon Hospital, 6421 Coldwater Canyon Drive, North Hollywood.
Call 989-4175 for more information.