

Unanimous decision hailed as "sweeping victory for the mentally ill."

CALIFORNIA SUPREME COURT DECIDES IN FAVOR OF TLC

INTERVIEW:

SYLVIA CHERNY

Legislative Advocate



"You have to be persistent," says Sylvia Cherny about her role as an advocate for mental health issues with the legislature. And she is one person the state senate and assembly representatives from her district recognize.

Known as an indefatigable lobbyist for mental health and

"When I lose, I just pick myself up, dust myself off and start all over again."

children's concerns, Cherny says of her volunteer efforts, "You don't have to be in Sacramento to affect legislation."

Cherny feels that citizens need to help their legislators know what issues are important. For Cherny, "whatever lends itself to preventing future problems for children," interests her.

"You have to prepare for the

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In a unanimous decision, the California State Supreme Court upheld a trial court's decision, which allows Transitional Living Centers of Los Angeles Inc. (TLC), a psycho-social residential rehabilitative program for mentally ill adults, to continue operation in the city of Torrance, which sought to have the facility closed.

John McDermott, attorney for TLC, referred to the decision as a "sweeping victory for the mentally ill."

The TLC argument was based on the contention that neither local zoning laws nor conditional use permits could be used to prevent the establishment of a mental health facility in the local community, using Section 5120 of the Welfare and Institutions Code.

"This decision is a definitive statement by the court involving state preemption of local zoning authority as it relates to facilities for the mentally ill. Cities can no longer discriminate between medical and mental health facilities," said McDermott.

"The trial court did not abuse its discretion in giving (Welfare and Institutions Code) Section 5120 a broad interpretation consistent with the legislature's clear and express statewide policy to encourage, when reasonably possible, care for our mentally handicapped citizens

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WAGSTAFF REPLACES LOEB

SACRAMENTO — Ken Wagstaff has been appointed director of the State Department of Mental Health to replace Dr. Al Loeb, who resigned in December.

Wagstaff has served as assistant to Health and Welfare Secretary Mario Obledo and has been the person to monitor mental health for the agency.

He is the governor's appointee and is not a mental health professional; rather, his background is in administration.

Loeb, the former director, left

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NEW KIDS ON THE BLOCK

They are the "new kids on the block," according to George M. Jacobs, M.A., president of the California Association of Marriage and Family Therapists (CAMFT), an organization with 4,500 members in California. "We need to prove ourselves," he said of the profession, licensed since 1964.

California has over 13,000

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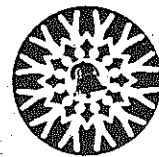
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Mental Health action and effectiveness happens in direct proportion to your participation.



Join your local Mental Health Association.

MHA GROUP FOCUSES ON YOUTH CONCERNS

One of the concerns of the Mental Health Association in Los Angeles County (MHA) Children and Youth Committee focuses on the mental health training of teachers.

This will be the topic of the committee's Feb. 11 meeting, during which the group will explore what kind of mental health training takes place in teaching institutions and if there is any contribution needed to be made by the committee. The meeting will have as featured speakers Dr. Ratna Appadurai from the California State University, Los Angeles, elementary education department and Dr. Donald E. Wilson from USC. They will be giving input as to what is happening in their institutions.

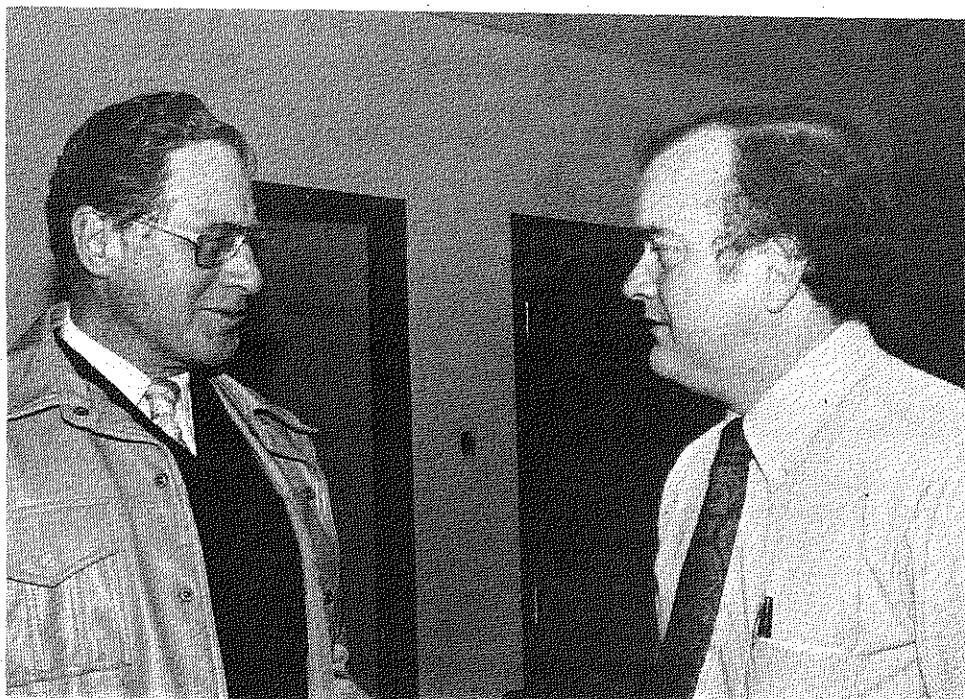
The Children and Youth Committee, with long-time member Maurine Kornfeld as new chairperson, meets at noon on the second Thursday of each month. The committee became part of MHA in the 1977 consolidation of the Mental Health Development Commission and MHA.

The purpose of the Children and Youth Committee is to monitor what is happening in L.A. County in terms of children and youth, to assess what needs exist and to try to affect some kind of action to meet those needs.

The committee is currently in the process of recruiting new members. Its March 11 meeting is planned as an orientation meeting. Discussed at this meeting will be past accomplishments of the group and future opportunities for members.

Accomplishments include developing the idea and obtaining funding for the MHA Youth Award Project and continuing the study into the placement of children with severe mental problems into MacLaren Hall.

As with all MHA Children and Youth Committee meetings, the February and March meetings are open, and visitors and new members are invited to attend.



Don Richardson, co-president of AMI, and Richard Van Horn, MHA executive director.

PARENTS' ADVOCACY GROUP MEETS IN VENTURA

The Winter Conference of the California Association, Families of the Mentally Disabled (CAFMD) has a new format. Workshops are included on the agenda for the first time.

Hosted by Families and Friends of the Mentally Ill of Ventura County, the conference takes place on Feb. 19-20 at the Poinsettia Pavilion Women's Center in Ventura.

The conference opens with the workshops at 12:30 p.m. on Feb. 19. Workshop topics are: coalitions, with Don Richardson, co-president of Advocates for the Mentally Ill (AMI) and Richard Van Horn, Mental Health Association in Los Angeles County executive director; legislation, with Tony Hoffman, CAFMD legislative representative; grant applications, with Tim Hird; and community support and involvement, with Nancy Johnson, Mental Health Association in Santa Barbara executive secretary. The open board of directors dinner meeting follows at 6:30 p.m.

Saturday's agenda features speaker Susan Lacey, Ventura County supervisor. She is one of the nine-member State Block Grant Task Force created to work with the governor and the legislature on allocation of federal funds. After lunch, Dr. Robert Liberman, director of the Rehabilitation Research and Training Center, Brentwood VA Medical Center-UCLA Neuropsychiatric Institute, will speak on mental illness research.

Planners have arranged for some of those attending the conference to stay

with members and friends of the Families and Friends of the Mentally Ill of Ventura County. In this way, the cost for the conference has been limited to the cost of meals.

The purpose of the conference, according to Richardson, is to give affiliates an opportunity to converse and get acquainted with other affiliates throughout the state; to approve resolutions for actions, both at the legislative level and with the State Department of Mental Health; and to sponsor aggressive legislative action. CAFMD holds three conferences a year.

CAFMD is comprised of 41 affiliate groups and has approximately 3,000 members. It is a part of the National Affiliation of the Mentally Ill (NAMI). There are seven groups in Los Angeles County. They are: AMI, Westside and Coastal Friends, Friends and Relatives of Metropolitan State Hospital, Friends and Relatives of Long Beach, Friends and Relatives of Pasadena, Friends and Relatives of Pomona and a San Fernando Valley Parents Group.

Richardson urged professionals and providers to attend the meeting. He indicated that such attendance is necessary if "parents are going to feel the support and interest of providers and professionals."

For information on the conference, write to Families and Friends of the Mentally Ill of Ventura County, P.O. Box AH, Ventura, CA 93002 or call (805) 643-0915 or (805) 654-2363.

MILLER TO BE MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

Dr. Milton H. Miller, regional director of the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health Coastal Region, has accepted the chairmanship of the Mental Health Association in Los Angeles County (MHA) membership committee. MHA soon will be launching a membership campaign.

"With regards to membership, we have a lot to accomplish. But as with most things, we need to start with ourselves. All of us, starting with the professionals in psychiatry, psychology, social work, education and ministry, need to belong to the Mental Health Association in Los Angeles County," said Miller. "I'm hopeful that many or most of the mental health professionals of Los Angeles County will join the association. Then it will be more of a 'Do as I do' example."

As chairperson, Miller will be proposing to the membership committee the 10-year membership goal of 1 percent of the Los Angeles County population.

The membership committee, with a core group of about 10 persons, will hold its first meeting sometime this month.

In one of the first stages of the membership campaign, the committee will identify a specific target group and will put together a campaign for that group. This will be the prototype for focusing on other groups in the future. Also near the beginning of the campaign, the committee will be involved in the recruitment of new gold members, those persons contributing \$1,000 or more, and benefactors, those contributing \$100 or more.

In addition to these categories, membership in MHA is divided into sponsor, with a \$50 contribution; donor, with a \$25 contribution; and individual, with a \$10 contribution.

The membership campaign will be expanded to a general appeal during Mental Health Month in May.

In addition to his regional director position, Miller is deputy director of the L.A. County Department of Mental Health, professor and chairperson of the department of psychiatry at the L.A. County Harbor-UCLA Medical Center and professor and vice-chairperson of the UCLA department of psychiatry.

Prior to his regional director position, Miller was director of the World Health Organization (WHO) training center at the University of British Columbia. He served as WHO consultant to Bangladesh in 1978 and 1980 and as a WHO consultant to the Thailand government in 1974. He has spoken and traveled in 30 countries.

Miller authored the recently published non-fiction book, "Psychiatry: A Personal View."



The Hon. Richard P. Byrne, outgoing presiding judge of the juvenile court, was presented an award by the Children's Citizens Advisory Committee "in appreciation for . . . (his) understanding of the mental health of the children of Los Angeles County." Pictured at the ceremony are (l.-r.) the Hon. Randolph Moore, the new presiding judge of the juvenile court; Marion McCammond, chairperson of the committee; Judge Byrne; and Dr. Rose Jenkins, director of the Children and Youth Services Bureau of the L.A. County Department of Mental Health. Judge Byrne served three years as presiding judge and was honored for his concern for children.

People Helping People...

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Join your local Mental Health Association.



... there is another way for people to relate to each other, and increasing numbers of people are living their lives differently."

FERGUSON DESCRIBES "CONSPIRACY"

by Greg Lecklitner

"Our past is not our potential. In any hour, with all the stubborn teachers and healers of history who called us to our best selves, we can liberate the future. One by one we can re-choose — to awaken. To leave the prison of our conditioning, to love, to turn homeward. To conspire with and for each other. Awakening brings its own assignments, unique to each of us, chosen by each of us. Whatever you may think about yourself, and however long you may have thought it, you are not just you. You are a seed, a silent promise. You are the conspiracy."

With these words, Marilyn Ferguson closes her most recent book, *The Aquarian Conspiracy: Personal and Social Transformation in the 1980's*. The book describes the profound change in the values held by many persons and considers the implications of this transformation for our social institutions such as education, politics and business. Supported by the theories and research of Nobel prize-winning scientists and the thinking of an enormous host of luminaries including Thoreau, Gandhi, Teilhard de Chardin, Aldous Huxley and Buckminster Fuller, Ferguson covers a vast terrain of "New Age" thought ranging from the holographic universe to dissipative structures, paradigm shifts to holistic health, networks to spirituality.

The recipient of enormous critical and popular acclaim, *The Aquarian Conspiracy* has launched Ferguson on a torrid schedule of lectures both in this country and abroad. She is also the editor/publisher of *Brain/Mind Bulletin* and *Leading Edge*, two influential newsletters reporting, respectively, on breakthroughs in neuroscience and consciousness studies and trends and innovations in social institutions. She and her staff work out of a comfortable two-story Highland Park house recently converted for office use.

Ferguson describes herself as a "clearinghouse or lightning rod for new research in the brain-mind area and social change." From this vantage point she "began to realize that there was really one profound change taking place and it was a great shift in values. What people care about, what they believe, what they see, almost their very realities were changing. The

ripple effect of this personal transformation was being felt in our institutions."

To illustrate her point, Ferguson said, "We have been conditioned from early childhood and through our whole educational system to think that in order for us to win, somebody else has to lose. People are beginning to realize that it doesn't have to be that way. In their heart of hearts what people really want is to cooperate. There is very little in life that substitutes for good human connection. Winning, in the conventional sense of that word, can be very lonely."

According to Ferguson, the "conspiracy" (used in its literal sense, "to breathe together") now underway represents a personal and social renaissance. "What my book is about," she says, "is that there is another way for people to relate to each other, and increasing numbers of people are living their lives differently. They are, in effect, living the future, living the transformation, and as they are living it, they are helping to promote and propagate it. It is not to be defined in any conventional paradigm of politics, religion or anything like that."

One of the vehicles for the transformation described by Ferguson is what she refers to as "psychotechnologies," including a wide variety of activities such as running, meditation, EST and biofeedback.

According to Ferguson, "The psychotechnologies are used to help people get in touch with the deep inner, sane self. They include anything that stills the chattering mind which keeps us from being in the present. They help the person to become quiet enough to let their real strength arise and give them power they didn't know they had."

She is well aware that those who espouse such contemplation have been strongly criticised as being overly preoccupied or narcissistic.

"Those critics," she counters, "are making a very crucial error. They don't understand that the only truly socially responsible people are those who are fully integrated human beings. And people don't just get to be that way naturally."

Ferguson has received over 2,500 letters in response to *The Aquarian Conspiracy*. One of the overriding themes of the letters, she says, has been people's joy at discovering they were not alone.

"The reason people feel alone is that they are not communicating with each other," says Ferguson. "We have this myth that someday we are going to grow up and the world is going to be different.

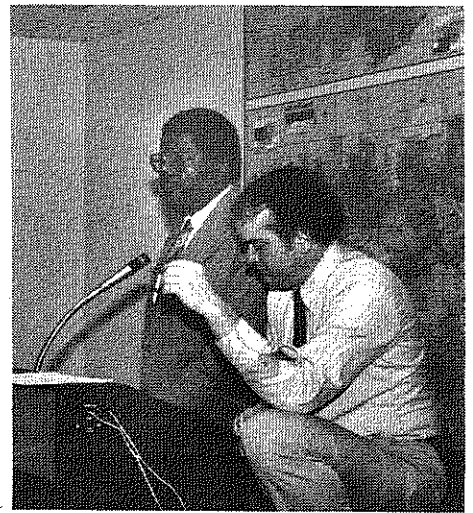
Everyone thinks that those around them are grown-up and yet feel as if they themselves never got to that magical stage where they really knew what was going on and what to do. The fact is nobody's in charge and nobody knows what to do. We're all just out there guessing. We have to acknowledge this to each other and be creative together. We have to invent the future."

Ferguson is currently working on two new books. *The Brain/Mind Revolution* will present an up-date of her earlier work *The Brain Revolution*. She is also compiling an anthology of seminal writings titled *Awakening: The Aquarian Conspiracy Papers* to illustrate the historical context of the emerging worldview described in *The Aquarian Conspiracy*.

Editor's note: Connections readers may receive a complimentary copy of the Brain/Mind Bulletin and Leading Edge by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope (one for each newsletter desired) to: Interface Press, P.O. Box 42211, 4717 N. Figueroa St., Los Angeles, CA 90042.

terests between meetings, rather than just having the limits of a steering committee.

Much of the action will center on advocacy for adequate funding for mental health services, according to Coalition



Dr. Norman Cottman Jr. and Richard Van Horn, Coalition chairperson

Chairperson Richard Van Horn, executive director of the Mental Health Association in Los Angeles County (MHA).

Max Schneier, founder of Transitional Living Centers Inc., said, "But we must



Bill Nelson, Ruby Hart and Royal Morales

COALITION GETS ITS ACT TOGETHER

At their meeting in December, the Mental Health Coalition, with 85 members representing more than 60 groups, approved the operating guidelines for the organization and a plan for action.

The Coalition brings together diverse groups in the mental health field, groups often in disagreement with each other.

Dr. Robert Gordon, of Westside and Coastal Friends, said, "Having so broad a membership can practically be a recipe for not doing anything."

Struggling with that concern, the meeting ended with consensus and the election of an Action Committee empowered to take measures on behalf of coalition in-

You have to convince the legislature you are supporting cost effective programs."

Vivian Isenberg, of Advocates for the Mentally Ill, said, "The number one goal of any mental health coalition should be client centered services."

Letters were sent to legislators concerning block grants, cuts in budget and loss of mental health services.

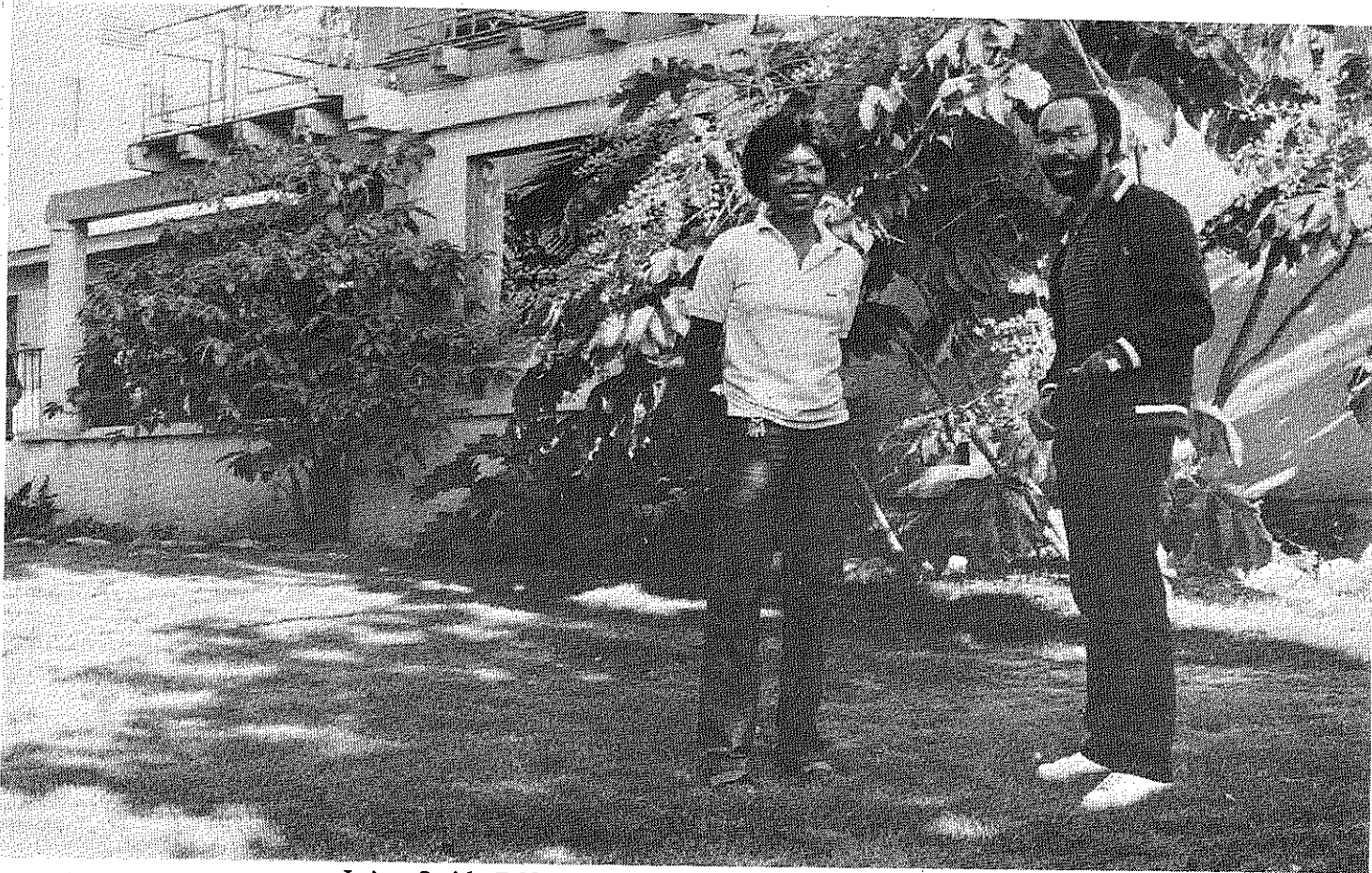
Ovie Smith, of the Society of Community Care Operators, said, "It's a damn shame here in L.A. County to see our people in the streets . . . Why can't we tell Washington it's a disgrace a trillion dollars is spent in defense?"

The Coalition scheduled its Jan. 28 meeting to be a budget workshop, with Tina Reynolds, Sylvia Cherny, Susan Mandel, Areta Crowell, Peter DuBois and Jim Preis arranging the presentations.

The action committee will meet monthly on the third Tuesday and on call at the MHA office. For information about joining the Coalition, call Van Horn, MHA, at 629-1527.



Lucille Sunde, Pearl Sherr, Ruby Hart and John Siegel (l-r)



JoAnn Smith, R.N., and DeWalt Brown, Pasa Alta Manor owner

FAMILY KEEPS HOME IN HARMONY

They have been referred to as warehouses. They often have bad reputations.

But in San Gabriel Valley, there exists a board and care home with the distinction of being considered a good board and care home.

"We are a treatment facility, really; people are able to progress," said owner DeWalt Brown in description of Pasa Alta Manor, located in Pasadena.

Opened in 1972, Pasa Alta Manor has been under the ownership of Brown since 1974. Formerly two homes, it was remodeled in 1978, increasing capacity from 16 to 51. Perhaps indicative of the home's good reputation is the fact that, according to Brown, the home usually is "virtually full. We usually have a waiting list." The majority of the manor's 29 rooms are double rooms, but it does have five single occupancy rooms.

In response to questioning about what makes Pasa Alta Manor a good board and care home, Brown said, "We try to maintain a therapeutic milieu. We have some innovative programs. We all counsel; we all have the patience to counsel. We try to keep it clean and healthful. The facility looks more like a home than most board and care homes."

At Pasa Alta Manor, the clients are given "a lot of TLC" and are "part of an extended family," said Brown. The home literally is a "family" project. Brown's parents and sister, JoAnn Smith, who is a registered nurse, are part of the 15-member staff.

"We have really spent a lot of time on our staff to meet the patient's needs," Brown said, perhaps another contribution to the good reputation. "Most of the staff have been here over two years, and that is good, because there is a lot of burnout."

The Pasa Alta Manor staff includes two psychiatrists, a psychologist, house parents and social workers, among others. The inclusion of a registered nurse is "unique" for a board and care home, according to Brown. Also at the manor are three students from Fuller School of Psychology in Pasadena, who "have been excellent," said Brown.

"They have the drive and the knowledge to work with the clients, and that is a plus," he said.

"They really know the clients," Lucie James, San Gabriel Valley regional director of the Mental Health

Association in Los Angeles County said of the Pasa Alta Manor staff. "There is a lot of caring expressed for the clients, and that is invaluable. It really has an impact."

Brown and his staff show a concern for "normalization," and this is frequently incorporated into Pasa Alta Manor routine. For example, a program recently initiated involved the clients occasionally going to the Glendale office of one of the manor's psychiatrists.

Food and activities are two areas Brown believes are crucial to the success of a board and care home.

"If you can keep those two things in harmony, you've got a happy house," he said. "Clients really look forward to the food." Brown, who has a certificate in nutrition, likes to monitor the food.

"I have to be a great shopper in this business. We get quality," he continued in the discussion of food. "You are limited in your resources. You have to hit the basic food groups, which we try to do at every meal. If you can give them good food, that is half the battle."

The purchasing of food, which is done in large quantities with the food then refrigerated, is used as another means of normalization for the residents. Tuesday is "bread day," and the clients participate in going and getting the bread.

The clients also participate in a number of activity programs throughout San Gabriel Valley, including the San Marino Community Church Outreach Activity Program; Inter-Community Alternatives Network (I-CAN); from which some Pasa Alta residents have been graduated; Escalon; and sheltered workshops. Some residents attend school; others have jobs.

"Most of our activities are external, and that is good, because they are able to get out into the community," said Brown. Some clients are able to use public transportation; others are driven by Pasa Alta Manor staff.

"Because of his concern, DeWalt takes the initiative and takes advantage of resources available to his clients to assist them . . . something not necessarily always true of some board and care operators," said Allan Rawland, Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health San Gabriel Valley regional director. "He is an involved board and care operator and involved in the community. DeWalt is on the San Gabriel Valley RCLC (Regional Community Liaison Committee), participates as a member and contributes to the planning process."

Internally, Pasa Alta Manor has a canteen for the clients, which is

stacked with health foods, natural juices, peanut butter, cheese and fresh fruit.

Additionally, Pasa Alta Manor has a grant, now in its second year, from Jack La Lanne's European Health Spa, under which some clients attend the spa each Saturday. The home itself also has a sauna and jacuzzi.

Clients have the opportunity to do jobs around the manor on a volunteer basis, for which they receive rewards.

"We work on a behavior modification basis, so they get rewards for whatever they do," said Brown. "A lot of people think that is exploiting the clients, but we all need something to do. It's therapy. It's productive."

"I am a firm believer in behavior modification," he continued. "I have seen that it works."

Both mentally ill and developmentally disabled clients reside at the board and care home. Brown attributed the "ability to do more" to the fact that funding for the developmentally disabled client exceeds that for the client who is mentally ill, a situation he described as "tragic." According to Brown, this funding has enabled him to get a loan for a van; purchase video equipment, which he said has proven to be a "motivating source" for the clients; and to get more staff and more qualified staff.

"I could not do that on the mentally ill funding," he said.

As a board and care operator, Brown's biggest frustration lies with the lack of program funds for the mentally ill and with the lack of sheltered workshops and independent living programs. Budget cuts, he said, "really impact on the mentally ill."

For the future, Brown is planning on initiating two independent living laboratories on the Pasa Alta Manor grounds, complete with stoves, washers, dryers and ironing boards. The laboratories will be run by Smith.

ADVOCATE REPORTS RIGHTS AND WRONGS

When the Lanterman-Petris-Short Act was passed, it contained certain fundamental patients' rights, and it required that these rights be posted in all inpatient facilities.

In 1972, a task force "found these were just paper rights. Without any mechanism of enforcement, these rights never

made the transition from paper to practice," said patients' rights advocate Barbara Lurie.

As a result of this, a patients' rights office was formed in Sacramento in 1974. It created regulations, including one requiring each county to have a patients' rights advocate. It also stipulated that this advocate's name, address and phone number be posted in inpatient facilities, in nursing homes treating psychiatric clients and in day treatment programs. Also, by law, all patients have to be given a patients' rights handbook with the name and address of the advocate inside. Board and care homes are not required by law to give out the handbook, but they do have to post the advocate's name.

As of Jan. 1, a law was enacted that puts the patients' rights advocacy system into statute. Previously, it was regulation. This strengthens the system, and now there are various penalties that can be invoked, including civil penalties in the form of fines.

Lurie is the patients' rights advocate for Los Angeles County. She said that her office receives less contact from board and care residents than from hospitalized clients and gave possible reasons for this. Board and care home residents may have more freedom and no complaints, they may be chronic and resigned to their situation, or they may fear reprisals.

Lurie cited examples of reports the patients' rights office has received regarding board and care homes. For example, board and care home operators cannot force residents to take medication, but operators may make staying in the home contingent upon taking the medication. This is not illegal, said Lurie, but; "it makes life difficult for the clients sometimes."

A report about operators putting medication surreptitiously into food or drink has been received by her office, but it has not been substantiated.

Lurie's office has received several reports of operators intercepting a client's SSI check when it arrived, without the client receiving it first.

According to Lurie, often, because of zoning laws, board and care homes may be in high crime areas, and this does not "facilitate a client's re-establishing himself in the mainstream of society. Often, they (clients) fall victim to crime because they are in a high crime area and are vulnerable."

She has received reports of poor supervision at some homes, where outsiders have one in and found that "no one is there except the residents," said Lurie.

Because it takes a long time to get SSI changed, there are "disincentives to ever leaving the board and care, because, for a couple of months, they (clients) have to fend for themselves until SSI (checks) follows them," she said.

The L.A. County Patients' Rights Office can be reached by calling a 24 hours a day, seven a week days number, 738-4888.

PEOPLE CONNECTION

RCLCS MEET ON COLLEGE CAMPUS

Volunteers and mental health staff gave up their Saturday to go back to the Loyola-Marymount University campus for an all day conference of Regional Community Liaison Committees (RCLCs).

The January 16 conference brought together citizens involved in planning mental health services in the five regions of Los Angeles County.

Keynote speaker was the Hon. Deane Dana, Los Angeles County supervisor, 4th District.

Workshops were offered on the role of RCLCs, led by Marcia Buck and

Tina Reynolds, Mental Health Advisory Board project staff; Recruitment of Volunteers, led by Tina Judkins, ARCO personnel; and Advocacy, led by Richard Van Horn, Mental Health Association in Los Angeles County executive director.

The purpose of the day was to draw people together to communicate, share ideas and look for solutions.

Planners for the day called the conference a success and talked of the need to repeat the event to include a wider range of interested citizens.



Carole Metour, Central coordinator; Gabriel Williams, San Fernando/Antelope Valley; Karen Gunn, Southeast and Liz Price, Coastal.



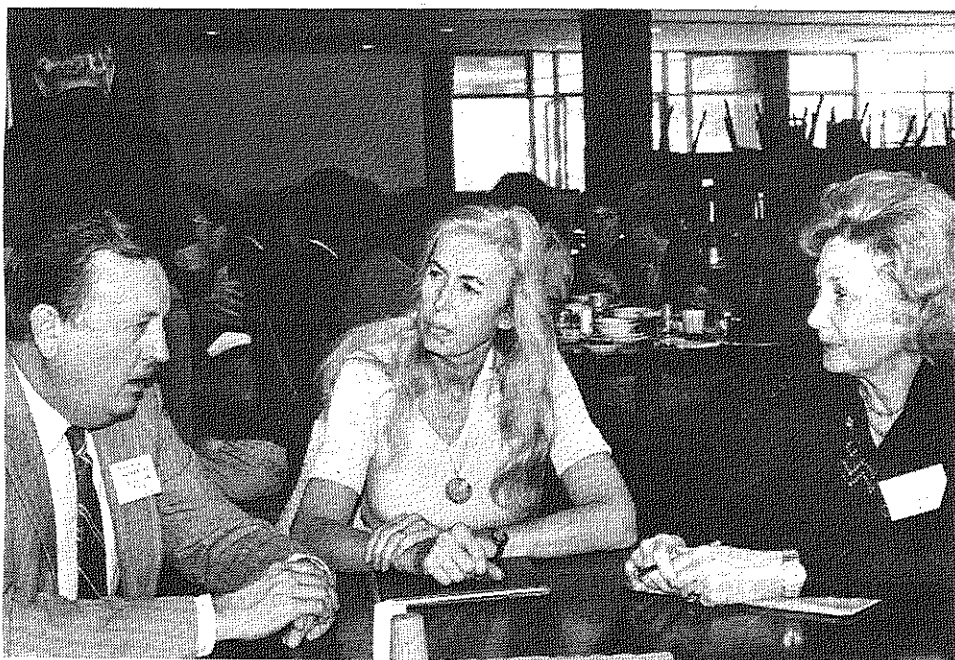
Supervisor Deane Dana



Hortense Scott, and Hector Penilla, Central Region



Ralph Mays with Mary Grey, deputy to Supervisor Deane Dana



Dr. J. Richard Elpers, Director of the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health talking with Cynthia Milich and Ruby Hart, chairperson San Gabriel RCLC



James Walker, Mary Joyce and Margaret Williams, Southeast region (l-r).



Janice Green, Aide to speaker Willie Brown, and Dr. Jacqueline Bouhoutsos

COURT

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within the local community," wrote Justice Frank K. Richardson in the court's opinion.

TLC founder Max Schneier called the unanimous decision "unbelievable."

"I'm so happy that the state of California has been opened up for community mental health. Hopefully this decision by the California Supreme Court will help mental health programs in all 50 states, because California and New York State laws and decisions tend to affect the progress of mental health in the rest of the country," said Schneier.

"It was a lonely fight for two years," Schneier said, "but the dedication of parents and advocates of the mentally ill has no equal."

William Quale, attorney for the city of Torrance, said, "I'm somewhat disappointed, since we felt the issue of local zoning control and local sovereignty is sufficiently important that we felt the court should have ruled in our favor."

Kenneth Scholtz, attorney, worked on the brief and the Mental Health Association in Los Angeles County filed an amicus curiae brief in support of TLC.

The Western Center on Law and Poverty carried the case.

The city of Torrance originally brought action against TLC in Los Angeles Superior Court, seeking an injunction to stop operation of the facility for municipal zoning ordinance violations. The court decided in the favor of TLC, a decision which was reversed in the Appeals Court. TLC then petitioned the California State Supreme Court to hear the case.

CONNECTIONS WITH THE READER

Jail Needs

It was interesting to read in your last issue about the services for mentally ill offenders in the county jail. It is a concern of mine that additional monies be found to expand these needed services in the jail system.

Citizens, families and church groups, and mental and physical health care providers should recognize how inappropriate the jail is for many ill and disabled people and create and support alternatives for them.

There are also many hurting people who are not behind bars — the families of prisoners. Children especially suffer when a parent is incarcerated. They often are the hidden victims of crime.

The Los Angeles County chapter of Friends Outside is a non-profit, volunteer community organization which helps families of inmates in many ways.

Friends Outside services to inmates' families include home visits; referrals for counseling, jobs and housing; Christmas presents for the children of inmates; emergency transportation to jails and nearby prison; and arranging a 25 percent discount on Greyhound buses for families to visit loved ones in prisons.

In short, Friends Outside helps families cope while a loved one is behind bars. The chapter also has, at present, 17 volunteer jail visitors in the county jails, who visit inmates referred by the staff of the mental health unit, rehabilitation counselors and chaplains.

Friends Outside considers itself a crime prevention agency, reducing recidivism by helping prisoners and their families. The importance of the family in the rehabilitation of the inmate is shown by report #46 of the Research Division of the California Department of Corrections by Norman Holt and Donald Miller:

"The central finding of this research is the strong and consistent positive relationship that exists between parole success and maintaining strong family ties while in prison. . . . This suggests that it might be well to view the inmate's family as the prime treatment agent and the family contacts as a major correctional technique."

I am enclosing a drawing by a friend, Janet Massey of Altadena. It portrays an inmate at Sybil Brand Institute (for women) visiting with her husband and child through a glass partition.

Friends Outside welcomes

additional volunteers. For information, call 795-7607 or write 464 E. Walnut St., Pasadena.

Jean Michener Nicholson



Unanswered Cries

I am saddened by the death of the son of a close friend — a young man who appeared to be on the road to recovery from mental illness. After many years of being in and out of hospitals, he had finally gotten an apartment of his own and had made arrangements to go back to school and complete his education.

On a Sunday morning the television exploded and filled his room with smoke, which caused his death. A neighbor heard his cries for help, but either because the young man had been heard yelling before and his cries were not taken seriously, or for some other reason, help did not arrive soon enough to save him.

Our hearts are heavy with grief and sorrow for Robert and Mary Hughes and for Matt's brothers and sister, Ann, Rick, Moe and Joe. Because I have a mentally ill son of my own, I know how Bob and Mary have suffered through their son's illness and how hard they have worked to improve conditions for all of the mentally ill.

We, the parents of mentally ill persons, know that the illness could be worse than death, yet we live with the hope that our relatives will get well. At the same time we wish our own to get well, we console those whose children have died by telling them that the suffering is over for their loved one.

Nelson Thompson
President, Relatives and Friends Group, Norwalk

Connections encourages response from readers. Letters should be kept as brief as possible and are subject to condensation. Connections reserves the right to edit letters for style and libel. Letters must include signature and valid mailing address. Pseudonyms and initials will not be used. Due to space limitations, an attempt will be made to publish a representative sampling of views.

Letters should be sent to: Connections, Mental Health Association in Los Angeles County, 930 Georgia St., Los Angeles, CA 90015.

MFCC

continued from page 1 marriage, family and child counselors (MFCC) and is one of only seven states to regulate the profession, according to Jacobs.

"The battle for certification and licensing in the other states goes on," he said.

His organization is not the only professional group in the field. The American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy is a national organization with chapters in different states, and there are other groups, Jacobs explained.

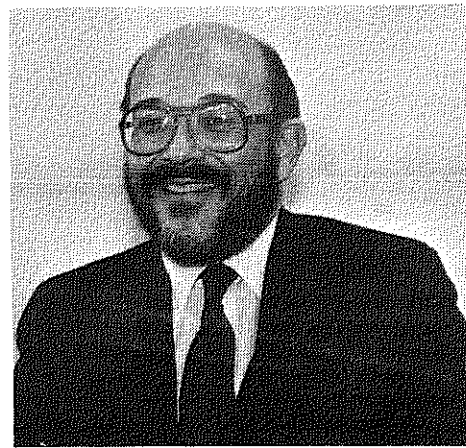
At the present time, the MFCC license requires a master's degree plus 3,000 hours of counseling experience under a licensed professional and, after completion of the hours requirement, a written and oral examination.

The State Board of Behavioral Science Examiners is responsible for monitoring and licensing. The legislature has created a regulatory body, the Office of Administrative Law, to review in detail the regulations. New regulations are being written, according to Jacobs, and his organization has input in that process.

"We are interested in making the requirements even more rigorous," Jacobs said. CAMFT is pressing for an upgrading of the amount and quality of education required and a tightening of supervision arrangements.

"The board seems responsive to our suggestions," he said.

Jacobs said CAMFT is considered an activist organization. It mounted a successful grass roots campaign to press the legislature to include MFCCs as one of the choices of services (when appropriate) where insurance includes outpatient mental health services.



George M. Jacobs

They also worked to have MFCCs included in the list of professionals employed with Short/Doyle funds.

Resistance has been felt from some of the other professions, Jacobs admitted.

"I want the professions to cooperate with us and us with them," Jacobs said. "Mental health needs are big enough, so there is plenty of room for high quality, affordable service."

"We are a tremendous untapped resource for the community," he continued, "and we tend to be willing to see education as part of our role. A lot of what we do is preventive work, as we make known the signs of what goes on in the family." Here Jacobs referred to child and spouse abuse. He feels more people can recognize earlier the need for help in their own families.

"There is no stigma attached to seeing a marriage family therapist," he said.

One of the exciting things happening for the organization is that their executive director, Steve Alexander, is running for the state assembly from District 78 in San Diego, according to Jacobs.

"Alexander will give a voice in the assembly to mental health needs, for our issues as a profession, and for consumer issues," said Jacobs.

CAMFT has offices at 2605 Camino Del Rio South, Suite 200, San Diego CA, 92108. Jacobs and his wife, Esther K. Jacobs, share office space in private practice. He is a supervisor with the South Bay Center for Counseling in Manhattan Beach and serves on the board of the South Bay Coalition for Alternatives to Domestic Violence.

EDITOR'S VIEW

Connections is now mailed to more than 15,700 persons in Los Angeles county and with this issue we welcome the 4,000 Marriage Family Child Counselors in L.A. county.

Articles featured in coming issues include a look at Kedren Community Mental Health Center, Southern California Counseling Center and Portals House.

We congratulate Max Schneier and the Western Center on Law and Poverty for the great court victory for Transitional Living Centers in this state. MHA joined in the fight.

Governor Brown has allowed the printing of some of the materials for the Wellness campaign expected to begin in May. This may indicate a "go" situation with this prevention campaign. Still to be decided are the media materials.

The MHA membership campaign begins next month with Dr. Milton Miller as chairman so if someone asks you to become a member . . . say yes to mental health.

Finally, Connections welcomes letters to the Editor (see page 6) and encourages the full range of opinions.

Lorraine Wilson
Editor

WAGSTAFF

continued from page 1

the position after 15 months.

"I think it would not be honest to say that I had not expected to fill out the term," he said, but it was his decision to leave.

Loeb resigned at a time of controversy over several issues. One surrounded the number of escapes at Patton State Hospital. Loeb had asked "for capital outlay for additional security" and was given "in lieu of positions (security) cameras and fencing," he said.

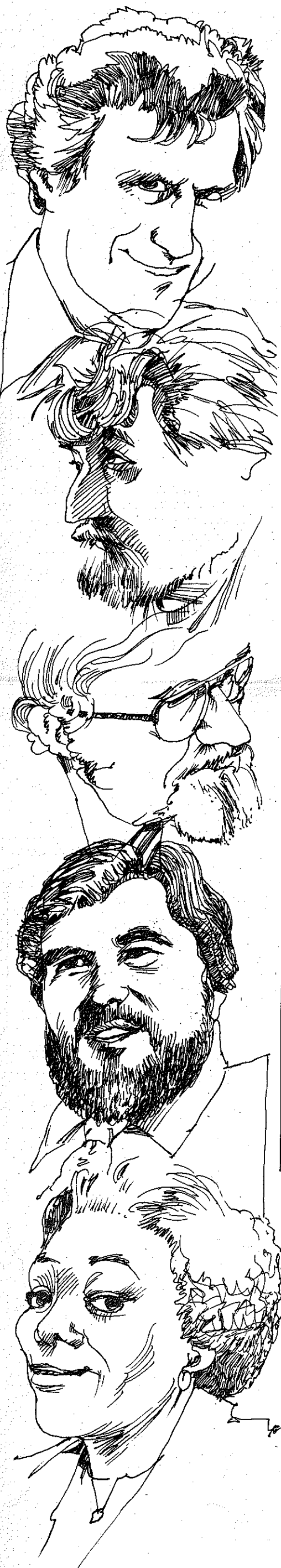
In the controversy around the Wellness campaign (see *Connections* December/January issue), Loeb and B. T. Collins, the governor's aide, were in disagreement over the materials to be used in the campaign. Loeb favored the prevention campaign.

About plans for his retirement, Loeb said he is interested in Transactional Analysis and will present himself in Monterey as a candidate for certification. His further plans include teaching at University of California at Davis and the USC Sacramento campus.

As a private citizen he plans to be an active volunteer for mental health and will "lobby and speak more" in support of mental health causes.

CONNECTIONS

A PUBLICATION OF THE MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY



This February *Connections* marks the ninth issue of the newspaper. First published in April 1981 by the Mental Health Association in Los Angeles County (MHA) under a Short-Doyle contract with the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health, *Connections* currently reaches more than 15,000 persons.

Connections was designed as a means of communicating mental health news and information throughout Los Angeles County. Its objective, according to the program statement, is "to disseminate information on mental health and the delivery of mental health services to the general public and appropriate organizations regarding information, education, legislation, community events and mental health activities."

It is also the purpose of the paper to provide information for consumers, to develop a sense of continuity within the system among provider agencies, to reduce stigma, to encourage volunteer participation and to increase community understanding and public support of mental health services.

Also an objective of the newspaper is to reach a wide variety of groups involved in the mental health field. *Connections* is distributed to: MHA members; State and L.A. County Departments of Mental Health; OMHSS; county mental health directors, Short-Doyle contract agencies, community mental health centers, board and care homes, city, county and state elected officials, Mental Health Advisory Board, media public service directors, Southern California Psychiatric Society, social workers, L.A. County Psychological Association, college and university psychology and sociology departments, public libraries, Regional Community Liaison Committees, Citizens Advisory Council, volunteer boards, parents' and consumer's groups, Project Return, other mental health services and interested public.

This month, more than 4,000 marriage, family and child counselors were added to this list.

Additionally, recognizing that various ethnic and language groups comprise approximately 50 percent of the county and realizing that no one group would be able to reach all the language and cultures represented in the county, the newspaper is mailed early to 50 special language and ethnic newspapers, who are encouraged to reprint the articles in order to share the information with their readers.

Editorial policy of *Connections* is determined by a six-member editorial board. In order to guarantee an objective and independent newspaper, the

board operates outside the jurisdiction of both the department of mental health and MHA, as specified in the contract.

The board meets monthly to critique previous issues and to develop content and format for future issues. It also establishes long range goals and provides creative impetus. The board is comprised of two representatives from MHA, two representatives from the Department of Mental Health, one consumer group representative and one provider representative. The following persons are serving on the board at the present time.

Al Greenstein is one of the MHA representatives. Greenstein is regional manager of public relations for the Atlantic Richfield Company (ARCO). He joined ARCO in 1976, following 13 years with Channel 2 (KNXT-TV) News, where he held a number of positions, including assistant director of the news department and executive producer of the news. Earlier in his career, he worked on several small newspapers and in the University of California public information office. Concurrent to the editorial board position, he serves on the board of directors of both MHA and the California Confederation of the Association. He is active with the American Heart Association and Options House, a runaways house.

Greg Lecklitner also represents MHA. He is a senior research associate at Human Interaction Research Institute, a private, non-profit social science research organization. He currently is working on a research project on advocacy and patients' rights, under a National Institute of Mental Health grant. Lecklitner is a founding editor of *Advocacy Now*, a quarterly journal dealing with patients' rights and mental health advocacy. He initiated a social club for ex-mental patients at a community mental health center in the San Fernando Valley. He contributed the essay, "Nuclear Madness," to the December/January issue of *Connections*.

Dr. Charles Ansell, a psychologist in private practice, represents mental health providers on the editorial board. He is editor of *The California Psychologist* and is a former president of the L.A. County Psychological Association and California State Psychological Association. He has authored chapters in psychology books and has taught graduate courses. Ansell contributed the essay, "Jimmy Lives," which appeared in the June issue of *Connections*, and the editorial, "Connections Draws Connections," which appeared in the July issue.

Representing the Los Angeles Department of Mental Health is **Roberto Quiroz**, M.S.W., regional director of the department's San Fernando, Santa Clarita and Antelope Valleys Mental Health Region. Prior to this position, he worked for six years as executive director of a community health center in Colorado, where he also served on the Governor's Advisory Committee to the Implementing of the State Mental Health Act. Additional past positions include program associate of the National Association of Social Workers at its national office and deputy director of a youth services agency in New York City.

Fredericka Williams, M.S.W., executive director of Central City Community Mental Health Center, also represents the Department of Mental Health. She came to Central City in 1977 from Fanon Mental Health Research and Development Center at the Charles R. Drew Post-Graduate School, where she was administrator. Before this, she spent eight years with the Department of Mental Health, Education and Welfare in Washington, D.C. There she had a variety of assignments, including specialist in family and children's service with the Bureau of Family Service; chief, Separation of Payments Office, Assistance Payments Administration, her first administration position; and director of the Office of Service Delivery of Community Services Administration.

The board's consumer group representative is **Don Carlisle**. Carlisle is president and co-founder of Westside and Coastal Friends, a parents and friends community self-help group. He has been a member of the board of directors of Transitional Living Centers Inc., a psychosocial residential rehabilitation program, since near its inception. Professionally, Carlisle is professor of geology and mineral resource deposits at UCLA, specializing in the study of mineral deposits. He also is a member of MHA.

Connections also receives input from an advisory committee, comprised of two persons appointed by the Regional Community Liaison Committee of each of the five county mental health regions. This committee meets quarterly, with the purpose of ensuring the newspaper contains mental health news pertinent to the entire county. It provides feedback on content, format and the publication's effectiveness and expresses regional needs.

In addition to these groups, *Connections* realizes the importance of feedback from the community and prints letters of general interest.

Editor Lorraine Wilson and Editorial Assistant Julia Scalise comprise the *Connections* staff. As such, they are responsible for the entire editorial production of the paper, consisting of determining, preparing and writing all articles, with the exception of guest articles; photography; proofreading; and layout.

The editorial board and the editor, in consultation with the Department of Mental Health director and the MHA executive director, are responsible for evaluating the effectiveness of the publication. As a means of determining this, an annual survey will be sent to a random selection of readers, allowing them to comment on effectiveness of the newspaper and to state their priorities for future content.

Connections encourages readers receiving this survey to respond. Any person wishing to write to *Connections* may address the correspondence to: *Connections*, 930 Georgia St., Los Angeles, CA 90015.



CALENDAR

February 1

Senior Health and Peer Counseling Center: The center is initiating an Activities and Skills Training Group for chronically mentally ill older persons, which will meet on Mondays, 2-4 p.m., at the center, 2125 Arizona Ave., Santa Monica.
For information, call 828-0563.

February 1

Center for Mental Health Training: Applications are due for "Group Approaches for Chronic Psychotic Clients," a workshop in the application of group treatment techniques and group process in the treatment of chronic clients, to be held Feb. 17-18, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., at the center, 11665 W. Olympic Blvd., Los Angeles.
For information, call 478-1535.



Augusta Sanders, R.N., has just been appointed by Gov. Brown to serve on the California State Board of Medical Quality Assurance. The board is responsible for the professional ethics of California licensed physicians. Currently the program coordinator for the day treatment center at Augustus F. Hawkins Mental Health Center, Sanders also serves on Senator Diane Watson's Committee on Health. Sanders is president-elect of the Wilshire B.P.W. She is the past vice-president of the Los Angeles County Employees Association Local 660.

February 2, 9, 16, 23

(Re-) Socialization Skills Inc.: Meetings of a free support group for parents and families of schizophrenic persons are held each Tuesday, 7-9 p.m., at the center, 1535 Sixth St., Santa Monica.
For information, call 451-1755.

February 3

Interagency Committee: The Interagency Committee on Mental Health meets at 9:30 a.m. in the conference rooms at the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health, 2415 W. Sixth St., Los Angeles.

February 3

Jewish Family Services: "Children of Holocaust Survivors and Their Spouses," a series offering an opportunity for open discussion of relationships with one's parents and spouse, will meet on six Wednesdays, 6-7:30 p.m., at 11646 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles.
For information, call 879-0910 or 478-8241.

February 4, 11, 18, 25

MHA: "The Total Woman: For Fun and Profit" seminar series cosponsored by the Mental Health Association in Los Angeles County and the West Los Angeles/Beverly Hills YWCA continues on consecutive Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. at the YWCA, 10936 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles. February seminars are: "Exploring Sexuality," by Ernestine Roberts, M.S.W., on Feb. 4; "Shifting Careers Successfully," by Joyce Snyder, M.S.W., on Feb. 11; "Coping in a Man's World," by Catherine Bond, communication consultant, on Feb. 18; and "Communication: Maximum Effect," by Dawn Hopkins, career planning educator, on Feb. 25.
For information, call 629-1527 or 478-1228.

February 6

Southeast RCLC: "Recovery Through Unity," is the theme for the Los Angeles County Southeast Region Regional Community Liaison Committee legislative luncheon, held at noon at the Ramada Inn, 850 E. Dominquez St., Carson, to honor legislative support for mental health and to inform legislators of the region's specific needs.
For reservations, call Beatrice at 603-7061.

February 9

San Gabriel Valley RCLC: The Regional Community Liaison Committee of the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health San Gabriel Valley Region meets at noon at La Puente Valley Community Mental Health Center, 160 S. Seventh Ave., La Puente.

February 9

San Fernando Valley Child Guidance Clinic: An eight week Confident Parenting Workshop, designed to teach parents with young children parenting skills and techniques will be offered. Facilitated by Carolyn WarmSun, the workshop will be held at 9650 Zelzah Ave., Northridge.
For information, call 993-9311.

February 10

Coastal RCLC: The Regional Community Liaison Committee of the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health Coastal Region meets at 6:45 p.m. at the Harbor-UCLA Medical Center, eighth floor conference room, 1000 W. Carson, Torrance.

February 11

MHA: Dr. Ratna Appadurai of California State University, Los Angeles, elementary education department and Dr. Donald E. Wilson of USC will speak at the noon meeting of the Mental Health Association in Los Angeles County Children and Youth Committee, held at 930 Georgia St., Los Angeles.
For information, call 629-1527.

February 11

Advocates for the Mentally III: The monthly meeting of AMI will feature Marco Pardo from the Alcoholism Council. AMI meets at 7:30 p.m. at Thaliens Community Mental Health Center, 8730 Alden Dr., Los Angeles.
For information, call 391-2823.

February 12

San Fernando/Antelope Valley RCLC: The Regional Community Liaison Committee of the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health San Fernando/Antelope Valley Region meets at noon.
Call Kathy Tasugi, RCLC staff coordinator, at 508-7800, for location.

CHERNY

continued from page 1

future," she explains, "prepare by studying the issue, discovering what legislation is being introduced and following the progress of the bill.

"When the state legislature is session, the Daily News has a column about bills in action," she says. There are several resources Cherny uses for information, including California Update, California Journal, the various legislative bulletins and the Citizens Advisory Council project. She also asks her elected representatives for copies of the bills. "You can get up to 100 bills free by writing Legislative Bill Room, State Capitol, Room B32, Sacramento, CA 95814, she explained.

"Everything in my apartment that is horizontal is covered with papers," she explained.

Her advice for citizens interested in mental health issues is simple.

"If you are in favor (of a particular piece of legislation), then write of your support to the chairperson of the committee or the author of the bill," Cherny says. "If you feel it is a harmful bill or if one section can be corrected, make that suggestion.

"Get to know your elected representatives," she says. "After all, lobbying just involves asking somebody to do something."

Cherny knows most of the field staff in her district.

"I have learned that some of the nicest people in the world work for our legislators. I have never been treated unfairly by

February 12

Center for Mental Health Training: Applications are due for "Introduction to Guided Imagery," a workshop in the methods of guided imagery, to be held March 1-2, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. at the center, 11665 W. Olympic Blvd., Los Angeles.
For information, call 478-1535.

February 13, 14

California Association of Marriage and Family Therapists: "Helping Families Change," sponsored by the California Association of Marriage and Family Therapists, will be held 8 a.m.-5 p.m. on Saturday and 8:30 a.m.-4:40 p.m. on Sunday at the Marriott Hotel, 5855 W. Century Blvd., Los Angeles. Continuing education credit is available.
For information, call (714) 297-7121.

February 16

Help Anorexia: The Help Anorexia meeting of an educational and resources group regarding eating disorders will be held for anorexia individuals at Thaliens CMHC, room C213, 8730 Alden Dr., Los Angeles.
For information, call 558-0444.

February 17

National Association of Social Workers: All interested social workers are invited to attend the NASW Mental Health Council meeting, held 6-7:30 p.m.
For information and location, call Susan LeMasters at 655-6404.

February 17

Central Region RCLC: "The Regional Community Liaison Committee of the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health Central Region meets at 7 p.m. at the LACUSC Medical Center Psychiatric Hospital, room C218, 1934 Hospital Pl., Los Angeles.

February 17, 24

Neighborhood Youth Association: The NYA, a non-profit counseling agency, is holding annual open houses at both its locations: at its west area office, 3865 Grandview Blvd., Los Angeles, on Feb. 24, 2-6 p.m., and at its harbor office, 22015 S. Avalon Blvd., Carson, 2-6 p.m., on Feb. 17.

February 18

Southeast RCLC: The Regional Community Liaison Committee of the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health Southeast Region meets at 1:30 p.m. at Christ Lutheran Church, 530 W. Alondra Blvd., Compton.

February 18

Help Anorexia: The Help Anorexia meeting of an educational and resource group regarding eating disorders will be held for bulimia individuals at 7:30 p.m. at Thaliens CMHC, room 208, 8730 Alden Dr., Los Angeles.
For information, call 558-0444.

any deputy," she said. "Nowadays, my legislator, Assemblyman Tom Bane, sends me things on mental health. I let them know I appreciate what they have done."

What makes a retired social worker/businesswoman invest this much time in a cause?

It comes from my family," she explains, "my parents." Her father was a rabbi and her mother "was always helping people new to the country figure out how to earn a living. I remember when my father died, two old men came to the funeral, and we discovered he had been supporting them all these years."

Over the years her experience with the Florida legislature, where she helped write a bill, and with legislative committees of the 31st District, PTA and National Council of Jewish Women all gave her the background for her citizen efforts.

Cherny is on the board of the Mental Health Association in Los Angeles County, the Children and Youth Services Bureau, the San Fernando/Antelope Valley Regional Community Liaison Committee (RCLC) and Interagency Committee.

Of herself, Cherny says, "I just ask questions." Those who have seen her in action pay close attention to her deceptively simple questions, because behind the inquiry there is a sharp awareness of the issue.

"When I lose," she says, "I just pick myself up, dust myself off and start all over again."

As she said in the beginning, "You have to be persistent."

February 19, 20

California Association, Families of the Mentally III: CAFMD is holding its Winter Conference on Friday afternoon and all day Saturday at the Poinsettia Pavilion Women's Center, 3451 Foothill Rd., Ventura, with Ventura County's Families and Friends of the Mentally III as hosts.

For information, write: P.O. Box AH, Ventura, CA. 93002.

February 19, 20

Fuller Theological Seminary: The Graduate School of Psychology of Fuller Theological Seminary is presenting "Ethnic Mental Health in the '80's: It's Psychological and Theological Perspectives," a two day conference focusing on mental health and issues on the religious interface with mental health, held on the Fuller Theological Seminary campus in Pasadena.

For registration and program information, call Dr. Gloviocell Rowland at 449-1745, ext. 3211.

February 20, 21

American Society for Adolescent Psychiatry and the Southern California Society for Adolescent Psychiatry: "Psychology of the Self in Adolescence" will be held at the Biltmore Hotel, Los Angeles.
For information, call 275-7689.

February 22

Help Anorexia: The Help Anorexia meeting for families, concerned citizens and professionals will be held, 7:30-10 p.m., in the Thaliens CMHC auditorium, 8730 Alden Dr., Los Angeles.
For information, call 558-0444.

February 24

A Touch of Care: A Touch of Care, a private, psychosocial rehabilitation center, holds a parents' skills training group at 7 p.m. at its social rehabilitation center, 11552 W. Pico Blvd., West Los Angeles.
For information, call 473-6525.

February 25

Westside and Coastal Friends: Marlene Kovar, probate and estate planner, and Bert Mitchell, tax and estate planning attorney, will discuss "Estate Planning and Estate Taxes Under the New Law with Special Emphasis on Families of the Mentally III at Any Income Level" at the VA Brentwood Medical Center, Bldg. 211 (Brentwood Theater), 11301 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles.
For information, call 393-7038.

February 25

Mental Health Advisory Board: The Mental Health Advisory Board meets at noon at the Hall of Administration, 300 N. Spring St., Los Angeles.

February 27

The Westside Community for Independent Living Inc.: WCIL is presenting the west coast debut of photographer Alan J. Brightman's photo exhibition, "Ordinary Moments: Expression of the Disabled Experience," with the theme that people with disabilities are more like everyone else than different, held at a special grand opening party, 7:30-9:30 p.m., at Santa Monica Place, located between Second and Fourth Streets and between Colorado and Broadway. The exhibit is open to the public on Feb. 28.
For information, call 473-8421.

CONNECTIONS

Editor Lorraine Wilson
Editorial Assistant . . Julia Scalise

Editorial Board: Dr. Charles Ansell, Donald Carlisle, Al Greenstein, Greg Lecklitner, Roberto Quiroz, Fredericka Williams.

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Postmaster: Send address changes to: 930 Georgia St., Los Angeles, CA 90015.

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