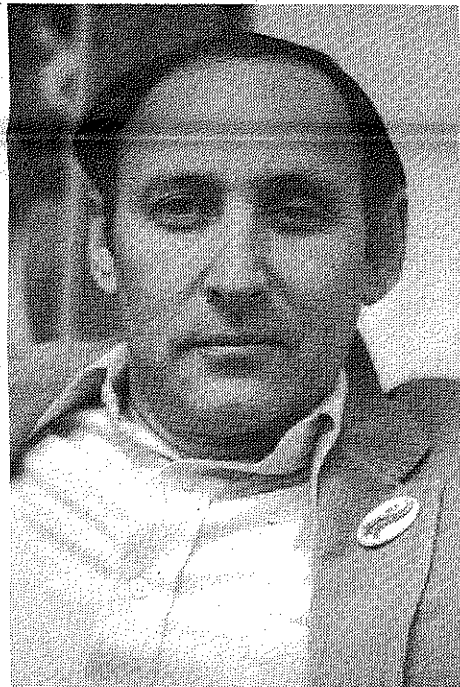


*Dana gives new assignments to Supervisors,
vows to continue work for mental health funding*

ANTONOVICH APPOINTED CHAIR OF MENTAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT

INTERVIEW:

KEN EDWARDS
Mayor of Santa Monica



In both of his jobs, Ken Edwards "attempts to be a catalyst between individuals and the services they need." A probation officer for nearly two decades, Edwards was appointed mayor of Santa Monica by his fellow council members last April.

Edwards admits that pointing out problems and needs of the

"I believe a community that addresses its problems and reaches out is better than one that denies the existence of problems."

community has not always stood him in good stead with others.

"I've been criticized for 'defaming the community' by bringing up problems we shouldn't talk about. But I believe a community that

continued on page 6

Los Angeles County Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich has been appointed chairperson of the county Department of Mental Health.

Board chairperson Deane Dana made the appointment in January. "Supervisor Antonovich will do an excellent job," said Dana, "and I will continue to work for funding of mental health services in Los Angeles County." Dana has chaired the mental health department since 1981.

Each year the board chairperson makes new department assignments, which the total board ratifies. Supervisors with special interests may chair that department for their entire tenure on the board.

Antonovich also chairs Health Services, the Department of Social Services, Adoptions, Courts, the district attorney, the Parks and Recreation Department, Road Department and weights and measures.

He asked for social services and adoptions just last year.

"I look upon the chairmanship of the mental health department as both a challenge and an opportunity," said Antonovich.

"I would like to see better coordination between all the health and human services including the Departments of Mental Health, Health Services and Public Social Services," he said. "This would include coordination of planning efforts, the setting of priorities and overall communication.

"This cooperative effort also needs to be shared by the various advisory boards and commissions which are involved in the planning process for these departments," said Antonovich.

According to Antonovich's Health Deputy Marcia Nay, as mental health chairperson, Antonovich will relate to the department and its director on a day-to-day basis on areas of administration and planning.

"I am interested in all services, especially those for children and senior citizens," said Antonovich. "I feel that greater efforts are needed toward helping abused and neglected children and their families.

"I am also interested in community volunteer efforts. I have met many people who are currently giving many hours of their time as volunteers, and I feel more recognition is due these outstanding individuals.

"We need to increase our efforts to recruit more volunteers to supplement the work of our paid staff members," said Antonovich.

Antonovich was elected Fifth District Supervisor four years ago. Before that, from 1972 through 1978, he was assemblyman from California's

42nd District.

The fifth supervisorial district is the largest in area, covering 2,600 square miles and includes the cities of Pasadena, South Pasadena, San Marino, part of San Gabriel, Burbank, Pacoima, all the west part of the San Fernando Valley and Santa Clarita Valley.

He was a member of the California College Board of Trustees from 1967 through 1973 and was a government and history teacher in the Los Angeles Unified School District from 1966 through 1972.

Antonovich earned his B.A. in government and history from California State University, Los Angeles and his M.A. in health science with an emphasis in special education from the same university.

INSIDE:

**NUTS
AND BOLTS**
PG. 2

**DEN
OF FUTILITY**
PG. 4



Mental Richfield Co.'s Albert Greenstein presented a \$50,000 check from ARCO to Mental Health Association in Los Angeles County president Bette Caraway for Project Return Center. This check made it possible to sign a lease for the center's building in Santa Monica.

MHA
CONNECTIONS

Mental Health Association in Los Angeles County
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Susan Dempsay, Project Return Center program director for the Mental Health Association in Los Angeles County, and family therapist Carl Whitaker, M.D.

EMINENT THERAPIST CARL WHITAKER TO DEMONSTRATE FAMILY DYNAMICS

Carl Whitaker, M.D., recognized as one of the founding fathers of family therapy, will present "Getting Something for Me: Families of the Mentally Ill Have Needs, Too," a lecture and demonstration, as a benefit for the Mental Health Association in Los Angeles County (MHA).

The program will be held on Saturday, March 24, from 9 a.m. to noon at the UCLA-NPI auditorium, room C8183, 760 Westwood Plaza, Los Angeles.

Donation is \$5 for MHA members and \$25 for non-members. The \$25 fee includes membership in MHA, a private, non-profit education and advocacy organization. Funds above the membership fee will be used for Project Return Center in Santa Monica.

Whitaker will open with a lecture and then will create a family on stage from audience volunteers. The family and the therapist will play out problems families face in dealing with mental illness. The program will close with discussion.

Whitaker currently is visiting professor at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center. He is professor of psychiatry at the University of Wisconsin Medical School department of psychiatry.

"I know Whitaker well. He was a professor in the department of psychiatry in Wisconsin during the years when I was its

chairperson," said Dr. Milton Miller, Coastal Region director for Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health and professor and chairperson of the department of psychiatry at Los Angeles County Harbor-UCLA Medical Center.

Miller described Whitaker as the "preeminent family therapist of our generation, a pioneer, brave and loving.

"He believes in growth, change, stirring things up, laughing and crying. Whitaker's primary view about life is awe and gratitude that we have life. He gropes for that which is Beyond, starting with an absolute mastery of his trade," Miller said.

During the past 40 years, Whitaker's work has included couple and family therapy, psychotherapy with schizophrenics and psychotherapeutic training for medical students.

He has published numerous articles and books on family and marital therapy, existential and experimental therapy, adolescents, doctor-patient relationships and schizophrenia.

Persons interested in attending the program should send their tax-deductible checks made out to Mental Health Association to Susan Dempsay, Mental Health Association, 930 Georgia St., Los Angeles, CA 90015. Call (213) 629-1527 for more information.

'SUCCESSFUL FUND RAISING' SEMINAR USES 'NUTS AND BOLTS' APPROACH

"Executive directors and development directors of non-profit organizations are tired of the theoretical approach to fund raising," said management consultant Boris Frank. "What they need to do is roll up their sleeves and jump into the process. That is what I try to communicate in my workshop."

Frank is conducting a three-day "Successful Fund Raising" seminar in Los Angeles, hosted by Kedren Community Mental Health Center's Department of Community Outreach Services. It will be held March 27 through March 29, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., at Kedren, 710 E. 111th Place. Fee for the workshop, directed at human services, non-profit and government agencies, and the general public, is \$120 for three days or \$45 per day.

The seminars will stress what Frank calls "the human element and practical nuts and bolts" approach to fund raising, with each of the three days devoted to a different topic. The first session will focus on grantsmanship, followed by proposal writing and ending with local fund raising. Interested persons may attend any one or all three sessions.

"We are extremely privileged to be hosting Mr. Frank's fund raising seminars," said Gloria Nabrit, Kedren's executive director. "His dynamic and down to earth presentation is perhaps the best fund raising seminar in the country."

Frank, of Boris Frank Associates of Madison, Wis., has led more than 200 fund raising seminars and workshops

throughout the country, attended by more than 3,500 representatives of non-profit organizations and government agencies.

He has extensive background in consulting and training in the areas of financial management, telecommunications, adult education, corrections, arts, health and social services, said Nabrit. He has been a commercial and public broadcasting executive for 30 years and a resource development specialist for the University of Wisconsin telecommunications center for 18 years.

Frank says the primary reason non-profit organizations fail is because they neglect to reassess themselves, their purposes, goals and direction in light of new political, social and economic realities. He said there are many non-profit organizations whose board and staff have a vision of what the organization should be and know the need it addresses in the community, but still have problems with funding.

"Often these groups just simply fail to include some time-honored techniques of fund raising, like long and hard research, planning and careful implementation of a fund raising plan," said Frank.

"There is nothing mystical about fund raising," he said. "Effective fund raising does not rest on mysterious information or technical know-how. It is just hard work."

Pre-registration for the workshop is necessary. For more information or to register, contact Barbara Ensley Walton at Kedren Community Mental Health Center, 710 E. 111th Place, Los Angeles, CA 90059, (213) 777-1411.

SCPS OFFERS 'IN-DEPTH' SERIES ON FOUR SYMPTOMS OF DISTRESS

To show the range of subjects psychiatry covers and help educate the public, the Southern California Psychiatric Society (SCPS) will hold a series of public lectures and discussions this spring.

"People want quick, short, abbreviated answers to questions in understanding human behavior and thought. We want to provide something in depth," says Lee B. Gold, M.D., coordinator of the series.

"We want to let people know what psychiatry is and look at topics substantially. We believe the public is being short-changed and are presenting this program, which we hope will become an annual event, in the public interest," says Gold.

In this "attempt to reach more people" the SCPS will offer a series of four programs, beginning this month, on child abuse, drug abuse, depression and suicide, and eating disorders.

"These problems are symptoms of emotional distress; there are many others, but these are in the forefront," says Gold. "Medically, symptoms, like fever, are a way of healing. We want to show that there are better ways to deal with problems. The intent of the series is to teach as much as we can."

Says Gold, "These topics are pertinent; the public hears about them, but we believe often the information is superficial—mostly simple, descriptive how-to information."

The "First Psychiatric Lecture Series to the Public-1984" will be held in Hershenson Hall of the Stephen S. Wise Temple, 15500 Stephen S. Wise Dr. in Bel Air. Each presentation will begin at 8 p.m. with a question-and-answer period following each lecture.

Leading off the series will be Justin D. Call, M.D., speaking on "Child Abuse/Parent Abuse" on Wednesday, March 28.

"I chose the title because the two topics belong together," says Call. "Abusing parents often have a history of having been abused themselves and children can also abuse parents with forms of manipulation and extortion."

Call plans to discuss new research on child abuse and categorize types of neglect and abuse. "I hope to clarify the nature of the relationship between parent and child, especially with an infant, and point out the distinctions between the abused child and the neglected child."

"Psychiatric knowledge in the field is often bypassed," says Call. He cites one study where only 11 percent of abused children brought into a hospital had seen a psychiatrist.

Call is professor of psychiatry and pediatrics and chief of child and adolescent psychiatry at the University of California, Irvine. He is founding co-president of the World Association for Infant Psychiatry. He has written more than 100 articles and four books dealing largely with normal and psycho-pathological development during infancy.

The second program, Wednesday, April 18, will be "Drugs—Their Uses and Abuses," delivered by Sidney Cohen, M.D.

"I hope to paint a picture of what is going on in the drug abuse scene," says Cohen, "what changes have occurred and what the future looks like. I will go into the specific problems with drugs, properties of the drugs themselves (particularly marijuana and cocaine), the groups affected and some of the areas being researched." He will also address some of the treatments for drug dependence.

He is former director of the Division of Narcotic Addiction and Drug Abuse at the National Institute of Mental Health and is a clinical professor of psychiatry at UCLA. Cohen is editor of "The Drug Abuse and Alcoholism Newsletter," published by the non-profit Vista Hill Foundation.

On Wednesday, May 16, the topic will be "Depression and Suicide," presented by Robert Litman, M.D., co-director of the Suicide Prevention Center in Los Angeles.

"I want to be as informative as I can about the status of suicide as a problem," says Litman, "and explain who would be the most vulnerable and under what circumstances. I want to explain why people commit suicide, the motivating factors and what can be done in the way of prevention."

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the Los Angeles Suicide Prevention Center, one of the first such centers in the United States.

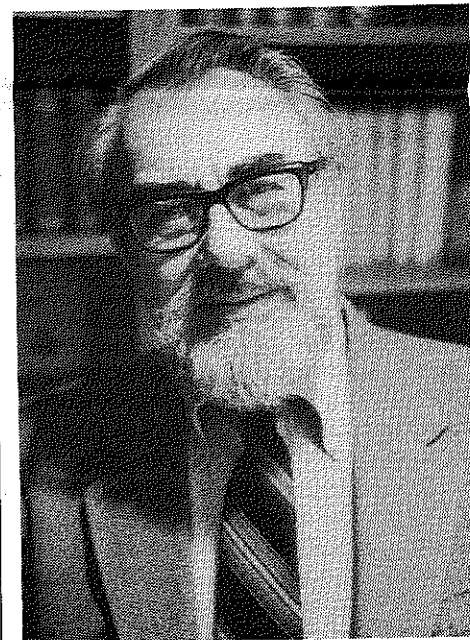
Litman is a clinical professor of psychiatry at UCLA and a training and supervising psychoanalyst in the Southern California Psychoanalytic Institute.

The final presentation, Wednesday, May 23, will be "Anorexia and Bulimia," presented by Charles Portney, M.D.

"I want to discuss the symptoms and diagnoses of the illnesses and how to accept the problem and accept getting treatment," says Portney. He will also include types of treatment available, both medication and psychotherapy, new research and "the role of the family in an individual's therapy."

An assistant clinical professor in the UCLA Medical School Department of Psychiatry, Portney is on the consulting faculty of the UCLA Eating Disorder Clinic and chairperson of the Eating Disorder Committee at St. John's Hospital in Santa Monica.

"Through this series I hope people will get a better understanding about



Lee B. Gold, M.D.

how psychiatrists approach problems and come to see psychiatrists as real live human beings," says Gold. "We want to eliminate the mystery and misunderstanding surrounding psychiatry."

"We want people to come and have an inexpensive learning experience," says Gold. "With increased understanding, people will be less reluctant to seek help, or at least a consultation."

Gold himself has been a member of the SCPS since 1958. For four years he was director of the extension division of the Los Angeles Psychoanalytic Institute.

"I designed programs for more limited groups," he says, "teachers, judges, retail clerks, unions and several others, but not for the public at large. I've always been interested in doing this and curious to know where people get their information."

Donation for each lecture is \$4.50; \$15 for the series and \$25 for couples. Seating is limited and advanced registration is required.

For further information and tickets write or call the Southern California Psychiatric Society, 2001 S. Barrington, Suite 214, Los Angeles, CA 90028, (213) 477-1041.



KNXT, Channel 2, CBS television station, presented a week-long look at local mental health needs as part of its 6 p.m. news program Feb. 20 through 24. Produced by James Kennedy, the series was reported by Sandy Hill and included interviews with persons from the Department of Mental Health, Mental Health Association in Los Angeles County, Project Return and Project Return Players, El Centro Community Mental Health Center, Portals House and parents support groups. Pictured are Project Return Players director Carrie Bray and reporter Sandy Hill (l-r).

FAMILIES OFFERED TRAINING, HELP FOR ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE

The Family Training Project for Alzheimer's Disease of the Andrus Older Adult Center (AOAC) in Los Angeles is designed to help families with daily problems associated with the disease, said Nancy Orr, AOAC assistant director.

"We look at what are the important things families need, what helps them care for the family member and what helps them reduce the stresses," Orr said.

The program consists of eight sessions in either an individual or group setting for persons caring for a family member with Alzheimer's Disease. The three-year project, now in its second year, is funded by the National Institute of Mental Health.

Director of the project is Steven H. Zarit, Ph.D., associate professor of gerontology and psychology at the University of Southern California.

Orr, with a master's degree in

gerontology, defined Alzheimer's Disease as "a neurological disease, a slow, progressive brain disease that initially affects memory and eventually affects other activities that involve the brain."

In the training sessions, counselors provide information, helping families to understand the disease, and answer questions such as "what starts the disease" and "are there any cures."

"We keep abreast on what is known about the disease so far and what is being investigated," Orr said. She said that while there are a lot of theories, the cause is unknown and there is no cure.

Time is spent in the sessions explaining how the disease affects the behavior of the person with the disease.

"For example, some family members feel their spouse or parent is asking questions over and over again just to annoy them. We give them a reason why the person is repetitive," said Orr. "Their brain is not capable of storing short term information. They don't realize they are doing it; they don't do it intentionally. We then work with the family on how they can manage those problems."

"One of the basic things we do with the family is teach them a problem-solving process, how to evaluate the behavior of their loved one and look for ways of changing that behavior. Often that involves the caregivers changing the way they interact with the person, what perhaps are they contributing to the environment that could be altered."

The Andrus Older Adult Center is a non-profit community research, training and service program, focusing on mental health and aging. It is associated with the Andrus Gerontology Center at USC and St. Vincent's Hospital.

There is no fee for the family training project, but donations are accepted. For more information, call Frances at (213) 483-8802, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

SOCIAL WORKERS OFFER REFERRALS

Therapy groups for incest survivors, compulsive dieters, recent widowers, parents of young toddlers, adult children of elderly parents and children of divorce are just some of the wide variety of professionally-led groups currently offered by licensed clinical social workers who are members of the National Association of Social Workers Counseling and Psychotherapy Referral Service of Los Angeles County.

Additionally, groups for women, couples, assertion training and mixed psychotherapy groups for men and women of heterogeneous ages and backgrounds are currently meeting throughout Los Angeles; times, locations and fees vary.

Call (213) 852-4769 for information and free phone consultation and referral by a professional social worker. Calls will be returned within 24 hours.

NATIONALLY KNOWN RESEARCHERS TO SPEAK AT NAMI CONFERENCE

FIRST TIME IN CALIFORNIA FOR JULY 5 TO 8 MEETING

California Alliance for the Mentally Ill (CAMI) will have nationally known professionals in the mental health field as speakers when it hosts the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI) annual conference July 5 to 8.

CAMI is expecting to have 1,000 persons from across the country in attendance for this sixth annual conference. This will be the California group's first time as host.

The conference will be presented in co-operation with the University of California, Irvine (UCI), School of Medicine department of psychiatry and will be held on the UCI campus.

NAMI is a nationwide organization of groups of relatives and friends of the mentally ill. CAMI is the largest state chapter.

CAMI has selected "Surviving Mental Illnesses: Families Face the Challenges" as the theme for the conference, with research into mental illness as its focus.

"One of the main emphases in the family movement is on research. It is for this reason we have invited these noted experts," said Helen Teisher, CAMI president and NAMI first vice president. Teisher is chairperson of the program planning committee.

Several nationally known professionals will speak at the conference. These include E. Fuller Torrey, M.D., author of *Surviving Schizophrenia*, now in its fifth printing, and Herbert Pardes, M.D., retiring director of the National Institute of Mental Health. Seymour Kety, M.D., schizophrenia researcher, and Laurence Sporty, M.D., of UCI, will also be speakers at the conference.

Additionally, D. Michael O'Connor, M.D., California Department of Mental Health director; Congressman Jim Bates (D-San Diego); Harriette Wieden, Orange County Board of Supervisors chairperson; and Dr. Charles Miles, NAMI president, are scheduled to speak.

A panel led by Dr. William Bunney, UCI School of Medicine department of psychiatry dean, will have members discussing their areas of specialty. These are Robert Gerner, M.D., depression; Floyd Bloom, M.D., neuroscience; David Janowsky, M.D., psychopharmacology; and Monte Buchsbaum, M.D., PET Scan.

A two member panel with Donald Lunde, M.D., and George F. Solomon, M.D., will focus on the insanity plea and related issues.

The film, "We're On Our Way," on

PARENT SUPPORT GROUPS FORMED

The Alliance for the Mentally Ill (AMI) is growing in San Gabriel Valley, adding two groups. Both welcome new members.

AMI chapters are groups for relatives and friends of the mentally ill, with support, education and advocacy as major components.

AMI—East San Gabriel Valley meets on the fourth Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at Queen of the Valley Hospital, 1115 S. Sunset Ave., West Covina, in the trailer near the north parking lot. Call President Elsie Redline at (818) 337-7439 for more information.

Christopher Amenson, Ph.D., will discuss "How Families Can Help" at the March 22 AMI—East San Gabriel Valley meeting.

Pomona AMI meets on the first Tuesday of each month from 7 to 9 p.m. at Landmark Medical Center, 2030 N. Garey Ave., Pomona. Call (818) 576-0784 for more information.

The first Pomona AMI meeting on Feb. 7 was attended by 25 people.

the need for community support services, will be shown.

CAMI has added a California flair to the conference with its two evening social events. There will be a Mexican dinner with a mariachi band and a barbecue with country and western music.

Sites for NAMI's annual conferences are alternated between the East Coast, Midwest and West Coast "so families have an equal chance of attending one near them," said Ramona Schneider, CAMI president-elect and conference planning general chairperson.

Persons from throughout the country attend the conferences, she said. At last year's conference in St. Louis, 650 persons from 48 states attended.

"People learn and they gain from the mutual support they receive from talking to other families. I think people go away sort of inspired by what they hear. They don't feel quite so alone," said Schneider.

"By meeting with families from across the country, we get strength," said Don Richardson, Alliance for the Mentally Ill—Los Angeles president and planning committee member. "We also develop into a strong mental health constituency, nationally as well as in state and local efforts."

There are 600 rooms available at UCI. Cost for room and board is \$34 per person for double occupancy and \$40 for single occupancy. Additionally, 200 rooms have been reserved at the Irvine Marriott Hotel.

Registration is \$40 for members and \$50 for non-members. CAMI is urging people to send a \$25 deposit per person to reserve a room on campus.

Checks should be made out to Helen Teisher-NAMI and sent to 5820 Yorkshire Ave., La Mesa, CA 92401. Persons needing additional conference information may write to the same address.

SGV CONSUMERS ORGANIZE

In San Gabriel Valley, consumers of mental health services will have a new way of communicating with the regional director of the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health.

The Consumers Advisory Board (CAB), now in the organizational stage, will give them a direct line to the regional administration. CAB officers, themselves consumers of services, will present concerns of other consumers to regional director George Wolkon, Ph.D.

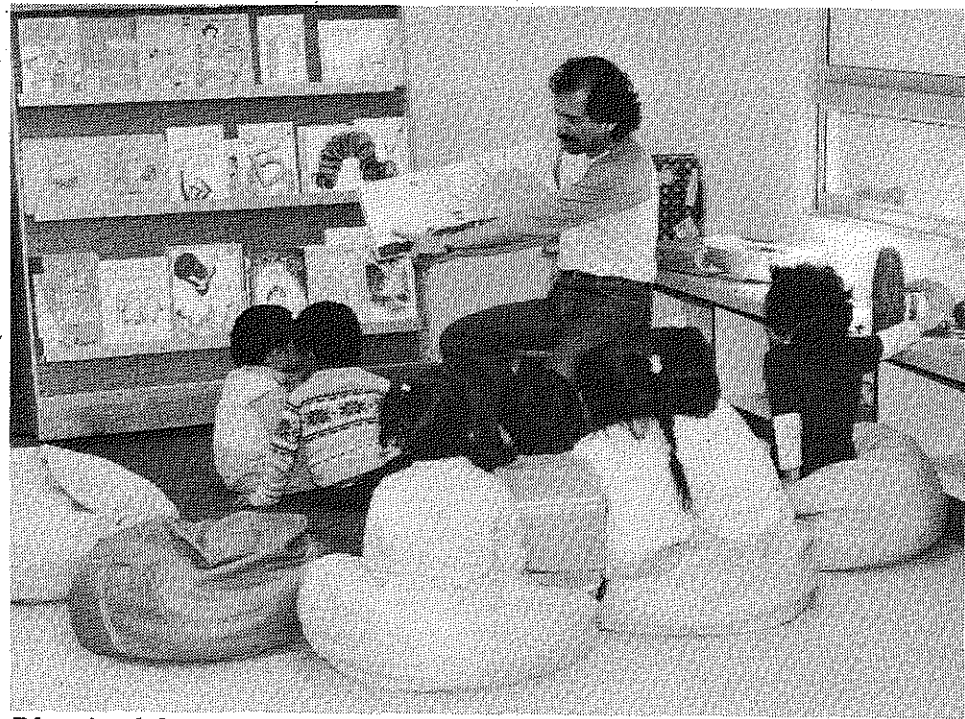
Serving as liaisons to the CAB are Gloria Caesar, M.S.W., the region's chief of program planning development and community services, and Debbie Hamilton, Mental Health Association in Los Angeles County regional program coordinator.

The CAB will be undertaking a project to collect information on mental health services and needs in the region. To accomplish this, CAB will use two surveys, one for consumers and the other for providers.

Consumers may bring their concerns to the semimonthly CAB meetings, held on the first and third Wednesday of each month at 2 p.m. at Arcadia Mental Health Center, 330 E. Live Oak, Arcadia. They may also join the CAB.

The group began meeting in September 1983. The idea for the group came from then-regional director Allan Rawland, M.S.W.

Persons interested in taking part in the survey may contact CAB chairperson Terry Parkhurst at (818) 359-6373, evenings before 9 p.m.; Gloria Caesar at (818) 960-6411; or Debbie Hamilton at (818) 576-0784.



Educational therapist Efrain Ramirez, of the Child Abuse Prevention program of Los Angeles Child Guidance Clinic, reads to pre-school children in the program.

*"... We can
keep the family
from the
anguish
of being
torn up ..."*

LOS ANGELES' OLDEST CHILD GUIDANCE CLINIC WORKS TO HELP FAMILIES REMAIN TOGETHER

(The final in a series on child abuse services in Los Angeles County)

"Our job is to prevent the removal of a child from a family and to prevent that child from being injured permanently," said Eugenia Romo, Ed.D.

Romo is program director of the Child Abuse Prevention Program of the Los Angeles Child Guidance Clinic.

This bilingual-bicultural intervention program is for parents and their pre-school age children who have been identified by the Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) as at high risk for abuse, but in most instances the abuse has not been severe enough to warrant having the child placed in a foster home.

Combining therapy for the child and education for the parents, the program has as goals preventing further abuse of the child and keeping the family together. Clinic staff and DPSS child service workers determine which families can fit the program.

"We look at the circumstance. The parent has been identified as frustrated or overstressed. With a little help, parenting education, respite care and therapy, we can keep the family from the anguish of being torn up and the state and federal governments from the cost of foster care," said Thomas J. Ledwith, L.C.S.W., the clinic's executive director. "We don't feel this is a risk. We look at the situation.

"If you pull the child out at a pre-school age, the likelihood of retaining the family unit is negligible."

"We work from both ends," said educational therapist Efrain Ramirez. "We work with the children here and we have parenting skills sessions."

The children, ages 2 to 5, attend the program six hours a day, five days a week. Transportation is provided by the clinic.

Work with the children "incorporates what would normally happen in pre-school. What is added to it is the therapeutic component," Romo said. "There is a play therapy treatment program. The therapeutic team is working with areas of behavior."

"I try to use a nurturing atmosphere," Ramirez said. He works on a one-to-one basis in an area of special problem with each child.

"Often these children are behind in terms of development because of emotional problems related to the abuse. We try to bring them up to their level with extra care and attention," Ledwith said.

"We gradually phase them into a normal pre-school class, maybe with outpatient (treatment). We want them to function again, not just with the family, but to get the child ready for normal pre-school and then school.

We work closely with the USC pre-school."

For the parent, the program is a place "to ventilate, for intervention and for education to acquire what we call acceptable parenting skills," Ledwith said.

"We talk about anger, frustration, what you do when you get to the point when you are going to hit the child and what is appropriate discipline," Romo said of the parenting skills sessions. "We also talk about culture, and how what is ok to do in one culture is not ok to do in another."

Some of the children in the program have been temporarily placed in a foster home.

"The court will assign them to a treatment program and will tell the parents you must attend parenting classes," Romo said. "The court tells the parents if you attend and go in for therapy, there is a 90 percent possibility we will return the child to you," following another hearing.

The grant the Los Angeles Child Guidance Clinic receives for this program covers only 20 percent of the costs, according to Ledwith. There is a "real commitment by our board to try to meet the needs of abused and neglected children and their families," he said.

Romo described the program as a "prevention model" to "help these children while they are young."

Ledwith added, "The earlier you can intervene to prevent problems, the less difficulty you will have solving them."

In the clinic's adolescent day treatment program, the majority of the youths do not live with their families,

and many have been abused.

"We would hope that we could treat some of the psychological damage that has occurred, instead of waiting until they are adolescents," Romo said. "Let's identify them at an early age and see if we can prevent some of these children from ending up in juvenile hall, a foster setting or adoption."

"We are preventing children from developing much more severe emotional problems. Problems of a child who has been abused surface as they get older.

"We are working with the family not to have that guilt grow along with the child."

For more information about the Child Abuse Prevention Program of the Los Angeles Child Guidance Clinic, contact Romo at (213) 749-4111.

The Los Angeles Child Guidance Clinic, a private, non-profit agency, is celebrating its 60th anniversary this year.

Since it was established on Feb. 12, 1924, the clinic has provided treatment to more than 50,000 children and their families, and hundreds of mental health professionals have been trained at the clinic.

The clinic has been an affiliate of the University of Southern California School of Medicine department of psychiatry since 1963.

Last year, the clinic received United Way of Los Angeles' highest honor, the J. Robert Fluor Award for outstanding agency. The award is given to one of 300 United Way agencies and health partners in Los Angeles County (last year there were two recipients; Visiting Nurses Association also received the award).



Los Angeles Child Guidance Clinic staff Ricardo M. Martinez, L.C.S.W., clinical director for treatment programs; Eugenia Romo, Ed.D., associate director and Child Abuse Prevention Program director; and Thomas J. Ledwith, L.C.S.W., executive director (l-r).

Life in 'Den of Futility'

I am writing this letter because I read the interview of Tom Rossebo, a board and care facility operator, in last month's issue (Connections, February 1984). I feel strongly that there is another side to the story. I have met Mr. Rossebo, and I feel he is a genuine and sincere-meaning man who probably does provide good care for his residents. But I also feel I must share some of my feelings toward the board and care system.

I have been in six board and care facilities. Never did I feel this type of arrangement could offer me the opportunity to establish a healthy, growing, dignified life nor did I ever feel that people were given respectable care in any of them. I will speak only of the worst one in this letter.

I spent eight months of my life in a board and care home in a remote part of Los Angeles County that can only be described as a "den of futility."

It was owned by one of the cheapest human beings I have ever met. I had a roommate who needed constant care. Most of the care he got came from me. I had to clean his feces from his bed and body each day or live with the smell. But I felt morally obligated to this poor fellow because there simply was no one else who would do it.

I would go on errands with the owner to "carry things" and because it was the only time I could leave or get away from that hellhole for an hour or two. Anyway, this man knew every bargain-basement produce food store. He would bargain for the cheapest possible food he could get, sometimes out of the trash bin. He would take it home, chop most of the rot off and concoct a vegetable stew of unimaginable ingredients. There were days I was hungry and couldn't bring myself to eat it.

This man was the worst kind of con man; he would speak to people of the

"He reminded me of some of Charles Dickens' novels. rule and regulation."

"poor souls" he was trying to help. You would have thought he was a saint.

But he reminded me of some of the seedier characters out of Charles Dickens' novels. He knew a way around every rule and regulation. In eight months I saw only one piece of meat on his table—a large roast. Curiously, this event coincided with the only time I ever saw the state inspector.

The residents lived by the laws of survival. The meanest or strongest stole with impunity everything the rest had. Never was there any attempt to stop this problem. He (the owner) avoided the police at all costs. So we guarded our possessions at all times.

There were 25 residents and only 20 beds. Why you say? Well, he always kept five residents in the hospital, never longer than a month though, so he could keep their checks. Regardless of your condition you took your turn. Most of us went gladly—the hospitals were a relief and you could eat food for a change.

When my turn came I packed all my things, the little bits and pieces I had, the shirts that almost fit, the suit that was less than five years old, my radio, a few pairs of socks, some books and my family pictures, the most cherished things I had managed to cling to because there were the most important to me. When you have no friends,

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love or accessible family, your things give you comfort. I put these things in my locker and put a padlock on it. He (the owner) promised me he would watch my packed locker. My life was in it, damn it. It was all I had.

I returned to find the locker gone. The owner promised to safeguard it and forgot. He said he was sorry; he would replace everything. I was sick and more miserable than I ever imagined I could be. I felt nothing but despair.

So I decided I was going to get out of there. I saved every penny I could get—no candy, no cigarettes. I spent nothing for four months and saved \$160. I hid it in my drawer. I returned one day and it was gone.

My roommate told me the owner had gone through my drawer and took it. I was angry. I stormed into his office and demanded it. I told him I would tear the office apart if he did not return my money to me quicker than now. He told me I was not capable of taking care of my money. So I inquired as to how, if I saved it for four months, could it be that I was irresponsible.

An argument ensued. The police arrived. I was surprised that they listened to me because usually they only ask the proprietors what happened then take you to the nearest jail or hospital, or warn you to stop acting crazy.

But they listened to my story, and I presented then with the same logic of how could I not be responsible for money that I had saved myself over a long period of time.

The police (wonder of wonders) told him to return my money. I could take no more and left a week later. I lived on the streets for three months before I could get my checks at my bank, and he kept two of my checks. But it was worth it to be free. I had been there eight months. There were no holidays during that time, no special meals. There was precious little medical treat-

of the seedier characters out
he knew a way around every

ment for anyone. There was never any mention of any rehabilitation or work training, never any new clothes.

The person who wrote the psychiatric reports had no professional or educational background. He was a resident who was in no way qualified, so all those records that had such an influence on our lives were forged.

The only employees he had were an illegal couple whom he paid a dollar or two an hour. She cooked, did a little cleaning and gave out meds that were written in English which she could not read. Needless to say, some of the residents used this to get just about any medication they wanted. Her husband was the night shift manager. Many evenings he was drunk. He often beat residents for the slightest provocations. Other nights he would check in at five and leave and come back early the next morning, so there was no one around at night.

I think I have made my point, which is that never did this penny-pinching individual part with a single cent above the barest necessities to keep us alive (probably because our checks would most likely stop coming if we were to die). The conditions were the worst I have encountered in my life.

This was a hard letter to write because it brings back memories that fill me with rage, pain and nausea. I have never been so hopeless or

miserable. It took me a long time to regain my dignity, to feel respect for myself again—to feel like a human being again.

So what I want to say is there are good operators, bad ones, and there are criminally negligent operators in this system, just as there are good citizens, bad citizens and criminals in our society.

Individuals who mistreat helpless and sick people who cannot care for themselves should be thought of as criminals. They steal from their defenseless charges, and they abuse them. This in my mind compares to child abuse, theft or worse.

We cannot assume all operators are good because some of them are. The Little Hoover Commission suggests fines or revocation of licenses as a deterrent. I would like to see laws that would make it a crime to abuse people in this situation. Because robbing from people who are ill or unable to protect themselves is as heinous a crime as there is. We need to rid the system of these types of vultures before they pick our bones clean.

We need more people like Mr. Rossebo to run these homes. We need to give the people in these homes a decent chance or at least a healthy environment.

We must; if we care, we must.

In closing I would like to tell you that I met someone a while ago who told me that the villain I've described has since expanded his operation to 60 beds.

John Marabella

Forgotten Voice

I appreciate Connections' contribution to my life.

I would like to see more printed in Connections about consumers of mental health services, their organizations (not just Project Return) and their concerns and issues.

I hope to see current and former mental patients asked for their opinions on issues which are vital concerns to them in everyday living (legislation on mental health issues, patients' rights, medication, forced drugging, fair hiring, employment, food and housing, SSI and SSDI), especially in articles where you've interviewed representatives of County Mental Health, the MHA, private therapists and family groups. None of these speak for us.

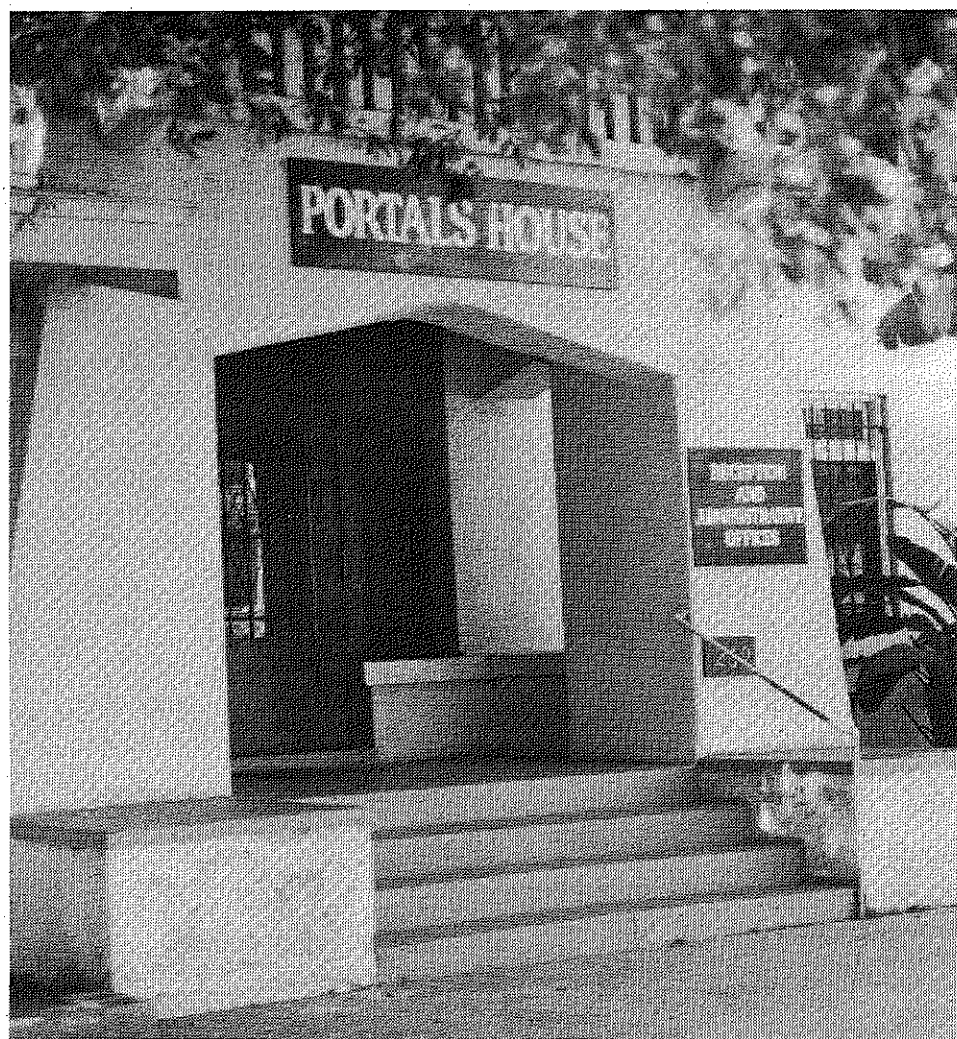
There are many consumers who would make interesting articles, even many who don't belong to Project Return. There are L.A. NAPA, REAL and of course, WE CAN.

We are, after all, what it is all supposedly centered around. I think we should be represented as often as the MHA. It often seems we are forgotten, except in captions of some Project Return event.

Frances Ronk
Project Return
San Fernando/Antelope Valley RCLC

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.



PORTALS WINS \$185,000 GRANT TO EXPAND HOUSING PROGRAMS

Portals House, a Los Angeles psychosocial agency, has been awarded a \$185,000 grant from the Weingart Foundation. The money, along with a 30-year, no-interest loan from the Los Angeles Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) was used to purchase the facility in the mid-Wilshire district Portals House has leased since 1977.

"This will enable us to go ahead with plans to remodel and expand our services to better serve the needs of our clients and the growing number of homeless mentally ill of our community," said Marvin Weinstein, Portals executive director.

The 30-year-old agency has begun a \$500,000 building fund campaign with actor Karl Malden as honorary chairperson. The three-year campaign has as its goal a new transitional housing facility and expansion of services.

"We hope to match an additional \$60,000 from the CRA to build a second residential facility behind the one we now own. The need is overwhelming," said Weinstein.

He expects the agency to have a new facility built no later than December. "There is a lack of transitional beds. A new facility would increase our beds to 16. This is still not enough, but it will mean substantial progress," said Weinstein.

"With the Weingart money we will be able to develop our program in a more substantial way," said Weinstein. "We have plans to develop a fast food restaurant (at the agency's Third and Normandie location) and a maintenance business. Both will be self-supporting businesses that will provide jobs."

According to Weinstein, the maintenance service will contract with small apartment and condominium complexes. He assembled a task force of business people to make recommendations, with their suggestions now being developed.

"With a more secure financial footing, we will be able to start businesses, expand our facility and make improvements on property. We also want to develop a grooming room where residents can learn those skills," said Weinstein.

To broaden its residential program, Portals is expanding its satellite apartment program. The apartments, scattered within a two-mile radius of Portals, are the next step for those who have gone through the residential program.

"We try to prepare people for apart-

ment life and to live independently," said Weinstein. "Residents usually spend four months in transitional housing before moving to an apartment."

"It is difficult enough for residents to get apartments and with no job history, no current job and no first and last months rent it is almost impossible," said Weinstein. "So we lease the apartments and sub-lease them to clients."

"We want to expand this aspect of our program for more normalized living," said Weinstein, "and residents can and do come back to Portals for support."

In 1983, Portals provided housing for 95 people in both transitional and regular housing programs, and 15 moved into permanent apartment situations. In all, 517 individuals received services from Portals.

With a rehospitalization rate of 8 percent, Portals offers socialization, vocational and referral services. "We have a low recidivism rate, I think, because of our operational philosophy," says Weinstein.

"We believe self-help is self-therapy. We are not a medical model; we really believe in change."

Says Weinstein, "The Weingart Foundation was impressed with what we are doing in terms of prevention, in keeping people out of hospitals, off the streets and in helping them to live on their own."

Portals House offers a full range of residential, social and vocational services for psychiatrically handicapped adults.

"The region is pleased with the contribution Portals House is making by expanding our regional system of care," said Rodolfo Garcia, M.D., Central Region Director. "Portals House represents an important part of a continuum of care in a community-based system."

"Through its residential programs, Portals exemplifies a sophisticated mode of psychosocial rehabilitation for the acutely and chronically mentally ill."

"Without this kind of program," said Garcia, "all other mental health service components suffer because untreated patients wind up with acute exacerbation in our emergency rooms and scarce and expensive inpatient facilities."

Portals House is located at 269 S. Mariposa Ave., Los Angeles. The phone number is (213) 386-5393. 5

addresses its problems and reaches out is better than one that denies the existence of problems."

He credits the high level of social services in Santa Monica to "an unusually talented group of people who don't take no for an answer. In most situations they are doing work without recognition."

The impact of all the community service agencies, says Edwards, is that they provide services regardless of the problem and "more important, they raise consciousness on the specialized needs of residents."

An example of this is his support of the Mental Health Association's Project Return Center for the recovering mentally ill to open in June in Santa Monica.

For last year's Project Return Walk-A-Thon, Edwards participated in

"We have a distorted sense of priorities. The money spent on one MERV, cruise missile or B-1 bomber would not change the balance of power and would resolve a lot of human suffering."

ceremonies at Palisades Park and issued a Mental Health Awareness Week proclamation.

The wording for most proclamations is submitted by the interested party, but this was one Edwards wrote himself. "I like to see appropriate social services and causes get recognition."

"We honor traditional agencies, like the Red Cross, and we are happy to do so, but I enjoy seeing organizations like Project Return receive recognition."

"The attitude toward the mentally ill," says Edwards, "is much like the insensitivity on a national level to hunger and the homeless—the government says there are no hungry people. It is a hallmark of national leadership not to recognize that problems exist."

"I know that a lot of people keep their problems to themselves. Parents and the mentally ill should be able to relieve pain and anger through community dialogue and not feel the shame society places on them. The problems are more pervasive than most people realize."

"I know from my work (as a probation officer) that individuals demand law and order," says Edwards. "They want to penalize others to the full extent of the law. However, if it is their own children they demand mercy and the creation of services to alleviate the problems, alternatives to incarceration. It should be the same with the mentally ill," says Edwards.

"People put down or chastize the mentally ill; they only learn the problem when it occurs in their family circle," he says.

Edwards has been involved in community programs and organizations for more than 10 years. "I've either risen to the top or sunk to the bottom, depending on how you look at it."

Edwards, who grew up in a children's home (placed through the Department of Mental Hygiene) now works out to the Santa Monica Department of Probation. He holds a B.A. in sociology and social welfare and an M.A. in sociology and criminal justice.

"I've always been interested in youth-related, problem-related programs and politics and government," says Edwards.

"The business community and landed interests don't have to compete for attention, especially from the government. I've always felt we need a human services advocate for our needs and I don't apologize for my stand. The larger political community is judged by the strength of its constituency," says Edwards, "social services never compete successfully with monied interests."

He has been part of the California Children's Lobby and says, "if you were to poll members of the Legislature, you would find that development and real estate interests are more influential and have a more direct effect on elections. So the choices that are made advance monied interests."

"They say the things we do are nice and cute. But a network has yet to be created, and we don't have the effective voice we need to build strong social services and a health care delivery system," says Edwards.

"There is a false belief on the Westside that we don't need federal money," says Edwards. Stepping Stone, a facility for youth, was funded both privately and publicly and through a Community Redevelopment Agency block grant. The city leases the facility to the agency for \$1 a year.

"I think facilities like this give us a sense of pride. Programs like this make the community aware of difficulties and we are able to address them."

Another issue Edwards wants to address is "upgrading the level of professionalism of human service workers. Because someone is in social services does not mean they have taken a vow of poverty or that they do not require decent working conditions. Most have families and are young, creative people in a job without a great deal of social recognition. We loose good people."

According to Edwards, there were 1,500 students studying social welfare when he was a student at Cal State Los Angeles. One of his professors told him recently the department is almost depleted. Says Edwards, "There's no one in the field; getting an M.B.A. has become more fashionable."

"And the President has made human service workers into non-entities with programs not worthy of federal support. By contrast, the auto and tobacco industries receive and rely on government subsidies."

"We have a distorted sense of priorities. The money spent on one MERV, cruise missile or B-1 bomber would not change the balance of power and would resolve a lot of human suffering."

"It's a matter of national policy. We must redirect our priorities."

In response to the growing homeless mentally ill population, Santa Monica Mayor Ken Edwards appealed to Governor George Deukmejian in the following letter:

Of the homeless population, the individuals most disturbing and unsettling to local residents are those people with emotional and/or mental disabilities who apparently have been deinstitutionalized and left with no professional social service support.

Various state policies which have led to the closing of large state mental institutions have channeled individuals back to our local communities without the long-promised community mental health facilities and transitional living settings.

The Santa Monica City Council would like to call on you to act in your capacity to press for the types of community based alternatives to hospitalization which are desperately needed by the "walking wounded" seen daily on the public streets.

These alternatives should include: 1) crisis centers for short-term crisis care; 2) transitional living settings geared toward a return to independent living; 3) day activity centers to help maintain those who need daily support services; 4) board and care facilities which support residents in living to the maximum of their potential; 5) mental health self-help groups modeled on the Alcoholics Anonymous program of group support networks; 6) job counselling and referral as a component of community mental health services when appropriate.

Without such back-up services, individuals in need will continue to wander unaided, causing possible harm to themselves and distress to local citizens who are faced with their unmet human needs.



Mental Health Association in Los Angeles program coordinators (l-r, standing) Debbie Hamilton, Joannie Baracz, (l-r, seated) Vergie Robinson and Judy Cooperberg.

NEW MHA PROGRAM COORDINATOR PLANS TO BE 'PART OF NETWORK'

Mental Health Association in Los Angeles County (MHA) has a new program coordinator to continue its work in the Central/Southeast Region.

Vergie Robinson began as program coordinator for the private, non-profit organization Jan. 23, joining MHA program coordinators Joannie Baracz, Coastal Region; Judy Cooperberg, San Fernando Valley Region; and Debbie Hamilton, San Gabriel Valley Region.

MHA program coordinators are responsible for the organization's programs at the regional level. This includes establishing and maintaining Project Return self-help clubs for recovering mentally ill persons in each region and recruiting facilitators for the clubs.

They also take part in planning special Project Return events, such as parties, the annual walk-a-thon and the Gifts for Giving holiday project, working with clients and volunteers.

In addition to Project Return, the coordinators recruit, train and support volunteers for residential care facilities and community settings. They are also involved with community organizations and agencies, sharing information on needs of clients.

Robinson views her role as "being visible in the community as a contact and resource person and being supportive for Project Return clubs and board and care homes."

She plans to start four to six additional Project Return clubs in the region, along with sustaining the seven clubs currently meeting.

"I am impressed with what goes on in club meetings and the support the members give to each other, and I would like to commend the facilitators," Robinson said.

"There is a need; Project Return can reach many of the people out there," she continued. About the value of volunteers in residential care facilities, she said, "They help the residents learn to socialize again, and they also help them to re-establish self-confidence."

Robinson is working on "getting to know and be known in the community. I plan to be out in the field, being part of a network." Robinson's office will be located at Kedren Community Mental Health Center on 111th Place in south central Los Angeles.

"The people in the community have been so open and willing to share, and they have given me so much assistance," she said.

Robinson has a master of science degree in counseling from San Francisco State University. She has been a volunteer counselor at West Los Angeles College and at schools in Nor-

thern California, working with children of all ages and children with learning disabilities. She has worked for a local Headstart Program.

In addition to Project Return clubs, all MHA program coordinators are active with community organizations and agencies in their region, including the Alliance for the Mentally Ill parents groups, the Regional Community Liaison Committees (RCLC) and regional interagency groups, among others. They participate in regional activities, such as the RCLC legislative meetings.

In the Coastal Region, Joannie Baracz, along with community volunteers, does hospital visitation, viewing hospital wards and then presenting concerns and comments to hospital administrators. She works collaboratively with four other organizations and board and care homes at a mental health activity center, now in its 10th year.

Judy Cooperberg, San Fernando Valley program coordinator, gives lectures for community groups, professional organizations, agencies and universities. Her office gives information and referrals for mental health resources and is involved with advocacy for clients.

San Gabriel Valley program coordinator Debbie Hamilton participates in the San Gabriel Valley Recreation Coalition started by MHA, which holds monthly dances for clients. She coordinates care provider training meetings, done in cooperation with the Office of Mental Health Social Services.

MHA Program Coordinators

Central/Southeast Region
Vergie Robinson
c/o Kedren Community
Mental Health Center
710 E. 111th Place
Los Angeles, CA 90059
(213) 418-7445

Coastal Region
Joannie Baracz
1401 Chestnut Ave.
Long Beach, CA 90813
(213) 591-7530

San Fernando Valley Region
Judy Cooperberg
6305 Woodman Ave., #211
Van Nuys, CA 91401
(818) 780-1931

San Gabriel Valley Region
Debbie Hamilton
1750 Virginia Road
San Marino, CA 91108
(818) 576-0784

ESAY

THE GOVERNOR'S MENTAL HEALTH PLAN

BY ASSEMBLYMAN BRUCE BRONZAN

In his recent "State of the State" message, Governor George Deukmejian proposed a new "mental health initiative." The initiative is a combination of new legislation and increases in the state budget.

The proposal is a bold one that would essentially transfer most of the responsibility and accountability of California's mental health system from the state level to that of the individual counties.

As chairperson of the Assembly Select Committee on Mental Health, I am currently involved in a fundamental review of our state's entire mental health system. I would like to offer my comments on what I believe to be the potentially helpful and harmful effects of the Governor's proposals.

Nearly 25 years ago, California embarked on an ambitious course for reforming and improving our mental health system. Yet the sad fact is that the progressive charge of landmark legislation was never followed by the necessary resources to make it work. In the last 15 years, mental health has been tragically neglected, lacking both the attention of political leaders and the funding needed to carry it along.

It is thus heartening to see the

mental health care under his proposal?

- By ending the requirement that counties contribute a 10 percent share to the program (approximately \$35 million statewide) it is likely that counties will succumb to enormous pressure to move that money into other areas competing for funds. As a result, the \$35 million "increase" may merely replace the current \$35 million "county match," leaving mental health care with no increase whatsoever.

- Last year the Governor reduced \$28 million in the mental health budget. This year's proposal, a one-year only commitment of \$35 million, leaves counties wondering what to expect next year and in future years. Planning, development and expansion of community mental health programs cannot take place in a climate of such short-term uncertainty.

- Further, in light of the five-year \$100 million commitment to state mental hospitals, counties are left with an obvious incentive to move patients who would otherwise be a drain on their limited budgets into state hospitals, already proven to be the least effective places for treatment. This would be a major step backward.

- If counties are no longer subject to

"The current system is disorganized, disparate, underfunded, sometimes chaotic and totally inadequate. The legislative branch and executive branch are both to blame. For far too long...little or no attention was paid to understanding what was actually happening and giving sound direction for the future."

Governor bring this issue to his list of priorities. I can only applaud the interest he has taken in mental health. His help in focusing public attention on this important issue will greatly enhance the prospects for realizing the improvements that we all want.

Specifically, the Governor has proposed:

- 1) To increase by \$35 million state support for local mental health programs operated by each county. (This is on top of the current expenditure of \$316 million for these programs.)
- 2) To drop the requirement that each county match the state's contribution with a 10 percent share of its own.
- 3) To repeal the Short-Doyle Act and eliminate most of the state standards and programs, and to instead give each county its share of state funding in a "block grant" with few restrictions.
- 4) Reduce paperwork and streamline the planning and application procedures for counties.
- 5) To charge counties 15 percent of the cost of caring for their residents placed in state hospitals and
- 6) To spend \$18 million on capital improvements and \$6 million on more staff for our state hospitals which now care for approximately 5,000 people. This represents the first installment of a five-year commitment to spend more than \$100 million on these facilities.

In spite of its many worthy objectives, however, the Governor's proposal has within it some serious problems. As a former county supervisor (Fresno County), I share the Governor's goal of reducing cumbersome and often wasteful paperwork that the state now requires of local government. Yet, as a former supervisor, I know too well the limited financial resources available to counties as they try to address competing demands. Thus my main concern with the Governor's plan is that of practical implementation. In spite of best intentions, what will actually happen to our

state limits on what they can charge for mental health services in their own hospitals, there will be substantial temptations to use the mental health block grant to help bail out their own financially troubled hospitals. The counties' internal system would then provide an incentive to favor hospitalization at the expense of community programs. This would be another major step backward.

Were these worst case situations to come about in combination, they could destroy the community mental health system in California. We could conceivably find ourselves where we were 25 years ago. Persons with mental health needs will likely find themselves in a hospital rather than in the less costly, more effective and more humane alternative of community mental health programs.

Although I share the Governor's decision to improve the system, I am concerned that his proposal is fraught with serious pitfalls. There is, however, a larger issue that must be observed. In spite of the enormous need to do something in the area of mental health, the Governor's proposal to change one specific part of the system—the funding mechanism—is premature.

The change in funding to a "block grant" while at the same time substantially strengthening the state mental hospitals, reflects in itself a major confusion in policy direction: should we centralize or decentralize decision making? What are we really trying to achieve in the long run in terms of people who need help? In other words—just what is the state's policy on mental health care?

If anything is clear, it is that the current system is disorganized, disparate,

continued on next column

underfunded, sometimes chaotic and totally inadequate. The legislative branch and the executive branch are both to blame. For far too long we have operated in a policy vacuum where minor changes were made from year-to-year but little or no attention was paid to understanding what was actually happening and giving sound direction for the future.

In my judgement, the first order of business is for state government to fully understand where we are now in mental health care and then develop

a comprehensive and consistent overall policy for our future. Once we determine our policy of where we should be going, specific issues such as the funding and programs will flow naturally from that policy.

The time has come for all of us—the Legislature, the Governor, patients, their families, practitioners and concerned citizens alike—to work together to determine what ought to be done to meet the mental health needs of our population.

LEGISLATIVE ANALYSIS

AB 2381 THE GOVERNOR'S MENTAL HEALTH INITIATIVE

AB 2381 (Mojonnier), the Governor's Mental Health Initiative, would make major changes in California's mental health law. The bill would repeal the Short-Doyle Act and replace it with The Community Mental Health Services Act.

If approved, the act will give block grant money to counties for local mental health programs. Counties would be required to submit an application for their grant and the money awarded must be used exclusively by the counties for establishing and maintaining mental health programs.

The state Department of Mental Health would allocate the funds to local mental health programs based on a system determined by the state director and set forth in regulations, but no guidelines for this system are specified in the bill.

The application for the mental health funding grant is intended to replace the Short-Doyle Act which currently serves as the contract for local funding between the state and counties.

Many current planning requirements, guideline, and standards for local mental health programs would be eliminated, including each local program's plan for assuring patients' right.

In its present form, the proposed law would not require a description of the county's procedures for administering the certification review hearings mandated by LPS. The state Department of Mental Health expects amendments to AB 2381 to include the procedures for the certification review hearings in the requirements for the grant application.

Local financial participation (the 10 percent match) would not be required of the counties, although all counties would still be required to pay the 15 percent of their state hospital usage.

The bill would mandate that a single appropriation be made in the state budget for grants to local mental health programs and funds for the operation of state hospitals for persons committed under the provisions of the Lanterman-Petris-Short Act (LPS). Currently the law requires a separate appropriation in the state budget for local mental health services and state hospitals. The proposed provision would remove the separate line item status in the state budget for local mental health programs by combining it with the state hospital appropriation.

Local Mental Health Advisory boards (MHAB), the Organization of Mental Health Advisory Boards and the Citizens Advisory Council would continue to be mandated under the provisions of the proposed law. All language currently in the law relative to the Citizens Advisory Council and local mental health advisory boards' responsibilities regarding local Short-Doyle Plans would be eliminated. Current law requires the Citizens Advisory Council's Subcommittee on Patients' Rights to review the patients' rights portion of local Short-Doyle Plans. This language would be deleted and no comparable language is proposed.

Local mental health advisory boards are currently mandated to review their Short-Doyle Plan. This requirement would be deleted for local MHABs and no provision is currently proposed in the bill for MHAB review of the application for the local mental health funding grant.

The Conference of Local Mental Health Directors would be mandated under the proposed new law, but its approval of standards, rules and regulations adopted by the state Department of Mental Health would no longer be required.

The language in the current law relating to professional licensure requirements for persons employed by local mental health programs and the professional requirements for local mental health directors are not currently included in AB 2381. The powers and duties of local mental health directors are also not currently proposed in the bill. (The Department of Mental Health anticipates that amendments to AB 2381 will be made to include these provisions.)

The Community Residential Treatment System Program provisions would be eliminated as well as the provisions for Primary Prevention Projects. Provisions mandated by SB 951 regarding the state Department of Mental Health's establishment and maintenance of an equitable system of payment for the special needs of mentally disordered persons in private care facilities would be repealed.

Provisions requiring local mental health programs to utilize private resources and facilities would be eliminated. The requirements that local public or private facilities be utilized before state hospitals are used would also be eliminated.

Current provisions of law relating to the state three-year plan for mental health would be repealed. Also eliminated would be the current language in the law regarding the state's responsibilities in the areas of management information, case management and quality assurance.

AB 2381 currently contains an urgency clause which would require it to become effective immediately if it were to pass the legislature and were signed into law.

No hearing date has been set for AB 2381 in the Assembly Health Committee.

When asked for their response to AB 2381, the representatives of some mental health constituency groups said:

Stella March, legislative chair, Alliance for the Mentally Ill, Los Angeles: "We would hope that AB 2381 would be set aside in favor of legislation that would be based upon the recommendations of the Assembly Select Committee on Mental Health, which is doing a thorough job investigating all aspects of mental health and its delivery system."

Lila Berman, vice chairperson, legislative liaison, Citizens Advisory Council: "The goal of the constituency is to create bipartisan support for a major review of the entire mental health system. This review should be conducted in such a way that both the administration and the Legislature participate. The outcome should be primary legislation presented in a climate of maximum support. All constituency efforts will be toward this end."

CALENDAR

RCLC

The Regional Community Liaison Committees (RCLCs), citizens advisory groups to the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health on a regional level, will meet as follows:

March 2

San Fernando/Antelope Valley Region RCLC will meet at 10 a.m. at regional headquarters, 5077 Lankershim Blvd., Suite 400, North Hollywood. Call (818) 508-7800 for information.

March 8

Coastal Region RCLC will meet at 6:45 p.m. at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center, conference room eight east, 1000 W. Carson St., Torrance. Call (213) 533-3154 for information.

March 13

San Gabriel Valley Region RCLC will meet at 5:30 p.m. at Arcadia Mental Health Center, 330 E. Live Oak, Arcadia. Call (818) 960-6411 for information.

March 15

Southeast Region RCLC will meet at 1:30 p.m. at Augustus F. Hawkins Mental Health Center, room 1169, 1720 E. 120th St., Los Angeles. Call (213) 603-4884 for information.

March 21

Central Region RCLC will meet at 7:30 p.m. at LAC-USC Medical Center Psychiatric Hospital, room 2C18, 1934 Hospital Place, Los Angeles. Call (213) 226-5726 for information.

RCLC meetings are open to the public.

March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

Rio Hondo Mental Health Services: A relatives group will meet from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at 12000 E. Firestone, Norwalk. Call (213) 864-2751 for information.

March 2

Mental Health Contractors Association of Los Angeles County: A conference for non-profit, private providers of mental health services from throughout the state will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Holiday Inn Embarcadero Hotel, San Diego. It will address issues such as cash flow problems, rate caps and collateral services. Call Susan Mandel, Ph.D., at (818) 795-8471 for information.

March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

Teen Talk: This talk show featuring teen-agers and hosted by educator and counselor Joseph Feinstein will air at 9 a.m. on KHJ-TV, Channel 9. Subjects will be "Four Generations" on March 3, "Working Parents" on March 10, "Teens and Gangs" on March 17, "Foster Families" on March 24, and "Military Service" on March 31.

March 3

Center for the Study of Young People in Groups, Thaliens Community Mental Health Center: A 27-hour intensive training course in adolescent group psychotherapy for mental health professionals will be held at 8730 Alden Drive, Los Angeles. Fee is \$225; enrollment is limited. Call Elaine Leader, Ph.D., at (213) 855-3401 for information.

March 5, 12, 19, 26

Kedren Community Mental Health Center: A parents support group will meet from 3 to 5 p.m. at the center, 710 E. 111th Place, Los Angeles. There is no fee. Call Patricia Don at (213) 777-1411 for information.

March 6

Temple Judea Community Outreach Counseling Center: "Parenting: A Lifetime Process," a series of five lectures examining parenting in the '80s, will begin on March 6 with "Communication: A Two-Way Street or Dead End?" and will continue on consecutive Tuesdays with "Drugs, Alcohol and Sex: Parents Guide to Survival," "Setting Limits: Rap with the Experts," "Separation and Individuation" and "Once My Child, Now My Friend." All will be held from 8 to 10 p.m. at 5429 Lindley Ave., Tarzana. Series fee is \$20. Call (818) 780-4994 for information.

March 6, 13, 20, 27

The Los Angeles Free Clinic: A Parents Anonymous chapter will meet from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at 8405 Beverly Blvd., Los Angeles. The group is free, and parents may enter at any time. Call (213) 653-1990 for information.

March 6, 13, 20, 27

Kedren Community Mental Health Center: An Effective Parenting Training class will be held from 3 to 5 p.m. at the center, 710 E. 111th Place, Los Angeles. Fee is \$20 for eight sessions. Call Patricia Don at (213) 777-1411 for information.

March 6, 20

Center for the Study of Young People in Groups, Thaliens Community Mental Health Center: An adolescent treatment consultation group for mental health professionals is designed to increase clinical skills and for case discussion. It will meet from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at 8730 Alden Drive, Los Angeles. Fee is \$50 per month; enrollment is limited. Call Elaine Leader, Ph.D., at (213) 855-3575 for information.

March 7, 21

Consumer Advisory Board: This group of consumers helping consumers and presenting concerns to providers will meet at 2 p.m. at Arcadia Mental Health Center, 330 E. Live Oak, Arcadia. Call (818) 359-6373 evenings before 9 p.m. or (818) 960-6411 for information.

March 7

Countywide Interagency Committee on Mental Health: This 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.

March 7, 14, 21, 28

San Fernando Valley Community Mental Health Center: A support group for caretakers of chronically ill; disabled; or frail, elderly persons will meet at 6740 Kester Ave., Van Nuys. Fee is based on sliding scale. Call (818) 988-8050 for information.

March 7, 14, 21, 28

Women's Clinic: "Women—Prosperity in Our Lives for 1984," a weekly therapy support group, will meet at 1:30 p.m. at 9012 Olympic Blvd., Beverly Hills. Fee is \$10 per session. Call (213) 858-3021 for information.

March 7, 14, 21, 28

Westminster Center: A continuing support group for women who do not have child custody or who share custody will meet from 7 to 9 p.m. at 867 Atchison Ave., Pasadena. Cost is \$45 per month. Call (818) 798-0915 for information.

March 8

Southern California Psychoanalytic Institute: The series of films of psychological interest will conclude with "The Great Santini," followed with discussion by Harold J. Delchamps, M.D. The screening will be held at 7:30 p.m. at the Writers Guild Doheny Plaza Theater, 135 S. Doheny Drive, Beverly Hills. Fee is \$6 and \$3.50 for seniors and students.

March 8

Mental Health Association in Los Angeles County: Marion McCammond and Irving Berkovitz, M.D., will speak on the Kindergarten Intervention Program being piloted by Los Angeles City Schools at the noon Children and Youth Committee meeting, held at 930 Georgia St., Los Angeles. Call (213) 629-1527 for information.

March 8

Alliance for the Mentally III—Los Angeles: "Combating Stigma of Mental Illness," a dramatization by Beverlywood Halfway House, with Dr. Carole Lieberman and Gale Perryman, will be presented at 7:30 p.m. at Thaliens Community Mental Health Center, 8730 Alden Drive, L.A.

March 9

San Fernando Valley Guidance Clinic: "Treating the Adolescent with Behavior Problems," a one-day training conference for therapists, counselors, law enforcement personnel, school counselors and teachers, will be offered from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 9650 Zelzah Ave., Northridge. The \$7.50 fee includes lunch. Call (818) 993-9311 for information.

March 9, 23

El Centro Community Mental Health Center: A Pre-Marital Education Program meeting court counseling requirements for men will be presented from noon to 6 p.m. at 972 S. Goodrich Blvd., Los Angeles. Fee is \$30; pre-registration is required. The March 9 program will be in English; the March 23 program will be in Spanish. Call (213) 725-1337 for information.

March 9

Alliance for the Mentally III—San Gabriel Valley: Dr. Susan Mandel, Pasadena Valley Clinics executive director, will speak on legislative advocacy at the 7:30 p.m. meeting, held at San Marino Community Church, 1750 Virginia Road, San Marino. Call (818) 797-3562 for information.

March 9-10

Stepfamily Assoc. of America, California State Division and California School of Professional Psychology: A two-day workshop for professionals working with stepfamilies will be held at CSPP-Los Angeles, 2235 Beverly Blvd., Los Angeles. Pre-registration is recommended; fee is \$120, \$80 for full-time students. Call James Stophel at (213) 483-7034 or Dr. Neil Ribner at (619) 452-1664 for information.

March 11

Southeast Mental Health Region, Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health: "Divorce: Its Affect on Children" will be discussed on the "A Healthy Mind: For You and Your Family" radio call-in talk show, airing at 9 p.m. on KACE, 103.9 FM. It is hosted by Julius I. Fuller, M.S.W. The number for calling in during the show is (213) 671-7639.

March 12, 19

Manos de Esperanza: The in-service training programs, open to mental health professionals, will be presented from 10:30 a.m. to noon at 6740 Kester Ave., Van Nuys. "Cognitive Behavioral Dynamic Family Therapy" will be the March 12 topic, and the film, "Coming of Age," will be shown on March 19, followed by discussion. Call Octavio Figueroa at (818) 988-8050 for information.

March 13

Alliance for the Mentally III—Norwalk: This group for parents of mentally ill persons will meet at 7 p.m. at the Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District administration building, 12820 S. Pioneer Blvd., Norwalk. Call (213) 864-4412 for information.

March 14

Beach Cities Alliance for the Mentally III: This support group for parents of the mentally ill will meet from 10 a.m. to noon at the Office of Mental Health Social Services, 19000 Hawthorne Blvd., Suite 302, Torrance. Call (213) 772-2188 for more information.

March 14, 28

Southeast Relatives and Friends: This support group will meet at 5:30 p.m. at Augustus F. Hawkins Mental Health Center, room 1119, 1720 E. 120th St., Los Angeles. Call (213) 603-8162 for information.

March 15

Hollywood Human Services Project Mental Health Task Force: "Child Abuse: Identifying and Reporting" will be discussed at the noon meeting, held at Hollywood Senior Citizens Multipurpose Center, 6501 Fountain, Los Angeles. Call Wendy Somerfield at (213) 467-3605 for information.

March 19

South Bay Relatives and Friends: This group for relatives and friends of the mentally ill will meet at 7 p.m. at Torrance First Christian Church, 2930 El Dorado, Torrance. Call (213) 412-2291 for information.

March 19

Jewish Family Service: "Holocaust Survivor Family Treatment Issues" will include the showing of the film, "A Generation Apart," and a panel discussion. It will be held at 8:15 a.m. at Jewish Federation Council Building board room, 6505 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles. Donation is \$10. Pre-registration is necessary. Call (213) 478-8241 for information.

March 22

Mental Health Advisory Board: This advisory group to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors will meet at noon at the Hall of Administration, room 739, 500 W. Temple St., Los Angeles. Call (213) 738-4772 for information.

March 22

Alliance for the Mentally III—East San Gabriel Valley: Dr. Christopher Amenson will discuss "How Families Can Help" at the 7:30 p.m. meeting of this group of relatives of the mentally ill, held at Queen of the Valley Hospital, 1115 S. Sunset Ave., West Covina, in the trailer near the north parking lot. Call (818) 337-7439 for information.

March 23

Community Congress of Agencies and City of Lakewood: "Altered States: Substance Abuse 1984," will focus on historical trends, current treatment, prevention programs and attitudes of professionals. It will be held from 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Palms Park Community Center, 12305 E. 207th St., Lakewood. The fee of \$7 for non-members and \$5 for congress members includes lunch. Call Phyllis Clark at (213) 925-7512 for information.

March 23-25

UCLA Extension: A two-and-a-half day workshop for the written portion of the M.F.C.C. examination will be held at G-33, UCLA Extension Building, 10995 Le Conte Ave., Westwood. Program coordinator is Joyce Snyder, M.F.C.C. Oral workshops will be held in May. Call (213) 825-6701 for information.

March 28

Southern California Psychiatric Society: "Child Abuse/Parent Abuse" will be the first in a series of four programs for the public. It will be presented by Justin Call, M.D., UC Irvine clinical psychiatry professor, at 8 p.m. in Hershenson Hall, Stephen S. Wise Temple, 15500 Stephen W. Wise Drive, Bel Air. Series fee is \$15 or \$25 per couple; cost per program is \$4.50. Seating is limited; advance registration is required. Call (213) 477-1071 for information.

March 30

Southern California Psychoanalytic Society and Institute and Cedars Sinai Medical Center Department of Psychiatry: "New Directions in Psychoanalysis" will be the topic of the 16th annual Franz Alexander memorial lecture, held at 8 p.m. at Harvey S. Morse Conference Center, Cedars Sinai Medical Center, 8700 Beverly Blvd., Los Angeles. Speaker will be Michael Franz Basch, M.D., with Joseph Natterson, M.D., as discussant. Call (213) 655-1634 for information.

March 31

UCLA Extension and Los Angeles Group Psychotherapy Society: "Group, Family and Culture: Cross Currents of Change," an all-day program, will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Ackerman Union, UCLA. Keynote speaker will be Dr. Luis Feder, diplomate member, International Psychoanalytic Association. Call (213) 825-6701 for information.

CONNECTIONS

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Executive Director: Richard Van Horn

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