

AMI Newsletter



ALLIANCE FOR THE MENTALLY ILL
of San Mateo County
(Formerly P.A.S.)

P.O. Box 3311
30 West 39th Avenue
San Mateo, Ca. 94403
(415) 573-5344

Meeting Schedule

NOVEMBER 1982

Hrs 1-4 pm, Mon-Wed-Fri

NOVEMBER MEETING

PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE TO 3RD
WEDNESDAY

Date: November 17, 1982
Time: 7:30 pm
Place: San Carlos City Hall
666 Elm Street, San Carlos

Program: Mr. & Mrs. Hagberg attended the Fall Conference of the Calif. AMI, in Sacramento. They made a tape of Dr. Patrick Donlan's talk on "Recent Developments in the Diagnosis and Treatment of the Schizophrenias and Affective-Disorders".

We will hear this tape at the meeting. Dr. Donlan gave a very interesting talk, even predicting a cure in the next decade.

NOTE: The meeting date was changed because the 4th Wednesday is the evening before Thanksgiving.

Other Mental Health Meetings:

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

3rd Sunday Alliance for the Mentally Ill
Napa State Hospital, Music Rm
11:00 to 1:00 pm.

* * * * *

IMPORTANT CONFERENCE AT NAPA STATE HOSPITAL

There will be a joint meeting of parents, families and friends of developmentally disabled and mentally disabled patients at Napa State Hospital, on Saturday, November 20, at 10 A.M., in the Recreation Room.

Some concerns to be discussed are plans to reduce or eliminate outstanding programs for developmentally disabled at Napa, plans to transfer dangerous patients from Atascadero to Napa, and the threat that state hospitals will be utilized as jails.

We need to explore alternatives and other solutions. We must develop a position we are willing to fight for.

Families of state hospital residents and patients should attend this meeting.

* * * * *

ORTHOMOLECULAR TREATMENT

Dr. Louise Wensel, who practices at the Center for Orthomolecular Medicine in Palo Alto, spoke at our October meeting about

continued:

this type of treatment which consists of a "wholistic" approach. They feel that the mind and body are too intimately connected to treat one effectively while ignoring the other. Orthomolecular and wholistic medicine oppose the fragmentation of medical practice into various specialties and subspecialties.

Dr. William Bewley, Director of the Napa State Hospital Orthomolecular program spoke at the California AMI Fall Conference in Sacramento about his program.

There continues to be a great deal of interest in this type of treatment at all of the conferences that we have attended, throughout the U.S. This is true in spite of the fact that traditional psychiatry has not accepted this treatment as valid.

In a survey of families of Napa patients on the Orthomolecular program, a large majority made favorable comments. Many parents comment about their mentally ill sons on this program, "He's the best he's been for years." These are some of the most severely and chronically ill patients, who have failed other programs.

* * * * *

MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD MEETING 11/3/82

Of interest to AMI members:

Tony Hoffman spoke on the position paper compiled by CAMI regarding responsibility for care of the mentally ill. The Organization of Mental Health Advisory Boards also joins in support of this position paper, which is against shifting responsibility for mental health services to the counties who would be charged with all phases of the delivery system (funding, licensing, program etc.). The paper also is against doing away with the Mental Health Advisory Boards which are the only viable links between the citizenry and the system. Copies of this position paper will be sent to the Board of Supervisors and to key state personnel who are the decision makers in these crucial matter.

Mental Health Director's report: Ms. De Luca called for a moment of silence to honor the memory of Dr. Emmett Stanton, for his years of outstanding service to our community.

Ms. De Luca reported that a decision to enter the pilot project for Medi-Cal consolidation is still under consideration. To date only Los Angeles County has signed to undertake the project. The decision has to be made before the end of the fiscal year.

Mr. Bernard Penzinger, Director of Telecare, contract agency which now runs Cordilleras, gave a presentation on the 16 year background Telecare has had in the operation of mental health facilities. Mr. Ross Petersen of Telecare gave a report on the fiscal background and policies of the organization, and a third member of the management team told of the ongoing research and development studies that Telecare conducts in an effort to keep quality of care at the highest possible level.

After Telecare has had a few more months running Cordilleras, there will be another presentation focusing on the Cordilleras operation as it is developed.

A representative of the Management Information Service (MIS), gave an overview of efforts the Mental Health Department is making to generate all possible funding potentials. (1) Medi-Cal - Presently 30% of county case load is on Medi-Cal. (50% reimbursable by Federal monies). A tracking system is being started to make sure that every patient who is eligible, is Medi-Cal certified. Without this certification indigent patients must be cared for out of Short/Doyle funds. (2) Units of Service Productivity - careful attention will be given to not exceeding the weighted state average unit of service allotment. (3) Retrieving HMO reimbursement. Presently, HMO's (Kaiser, etc.) have no program for chronic mental illness services, so these patients have to come to the county for help. The department is attempting to set up a package plan that HMO's would be willing to collaborate in.

Sue Miller - MHAB Observer

MATEO LODGE AND DEXTER HOUSE

We are pleased to report that we have a new Board member, but must also report a resignation. The houses are at capacity and doing well. Visitors are welcome - call:

Mark or Dan at Dexter House, 365-9453
Tony or Fidelina at Mateo, 365-7043
Ian Adamson 408-336-5336

Ian Adamson, Coordinator

LET'S SUPPORT OUR HOUSES

Let's not let Mateo Lodge and Dexter House, the homes that our group worked so hard to start, get shabby and ugly! Mateo Lodge needs a couch, some easy chairs, end tables, and carpeting. Call them if you have any of these items to donate, or get in the spirit of the season and send your tax deductible donation. If enough of us do this, they will soon have the price of the furniture. We are proud of these homes and want to keep them ship shape.

Board of Directors

Our December meeting will be a Christmas party. We will bring gifts for patients at 2N, Napa, and Cordilleras. More about this in the next newsletter. Call the office for suggestions as to appropriate gifts.

- President: Bette Pugh
- Vice President: Tony Hoffman
- Treasurer: Marilyn Hagberg
- Corresponding Secretary: Thelma Miller
- Recording Secretary: Tommy Marlowe

CORDILLERAS LIAISON MEETING 10/14/82

The current census is 102. A global assessment scale from 0-100 is used to rate the patients. They are usually at a rate of 20 when admitted. It is felt that they should read from 30-60 on this scale in order to be discharged. If they maintain this level for 3 weeks, an effort is made to find placement. Everyone goes through discharge planning.

The program at entry level is behavior management on the 2nd floor. The patient can progress to the 3rd floor where community living and basic living skills are taught. If they regress they can go back to 2nd floor program.

There was discussion regarding use of Cordilleras as a regional center.

When asked about returning San Mateo patients who are in out of county facilities, Gordon Cutts stated that few would meet admission criteria.

Reported by Dorothy Texier

Ed Note: The short term care policy of Telecare as explained by representatives at the MHAB meeting, indicates that the long term care needed and requested by our group, will not be forthcoming in San Mateo county. Indications are that the most seriously ill will be sent to out of county facilities with a lower level of staffing.

L.A. FIGHTS DISCRIMINATION

The following is an excerpt from the Los Angeles AMI Newsletter, Nov. 1982, President's Page: "One of the most unforgiveable -- and most unprofessional -- attitudes that has surfaced in a flagrant manner is a bias among professionals against treating psychotic clients. Deinstitutionalization of the mentally ill has required professionals practicing in community settings such as mental health centers, outpatient clinics, and transitional residential facilities to treat clients with psychotic illnesses whose counterparts in previous decades might have been institutionalized. It is important for families and friends of the mentally ill to take an active role in observing, assessing and reporting professionals who exhibit rejecting and/or hostile attitudes toward the mentally ill."

Dr. Elpers, Director of L. A. Mental Health Dept., has asked that his Regional Directors be informed of unsatisfactory service to mentally ill, and if cooperation is not received, that he or his assistant be informed.