

AMI Newsletter



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

DECEMBER 1982

P.O. Box 3333
30 West 39th Avenue
San Mateo, Ca. 94403
(415) 573-5345

Meeting Schedule

Hrs 1-4 pm, Mon-Wed-Fri

DECEMBER MEETING - NOTE date change
to 3rd Wed.



*Happy Holidays from
all of us*

Date: December 15, 1982
Time: 7:30 pm
Place: San Carlos City Hall
666 Elm St., San Carlos

Program: CHRISTMAS PARTY

Our December meeting will be a Christmas Party. Bring some of your favorite goodies and a gift for a patient. Mark the gift for male or female, and if it is for Choje 2N, Napa or Cordilleras.

Suggested gifts include small personal items, games, new or used clothing, padlocks (for Napa), candies/cigarettes/gum, fresh fruit, posters, arts & crafts sets, calendars, records and costume jewelry.

George Louzensky will lead us in a sing-along of Christmas songs. This was a big hit last year.

Join us for an evening of good friends, good food and music.

CORDILLERAS LIAISON COMMITTEE MEETING 11/29/82

Rose, the Patient Representative and President of the Patients Forum, reported that the patients are uptight and depressed about the heavy structure of the program. Discussion followed about this; bureaucratic pressure makes it difficult for the patients even to change groups.

The percentage of minorities in Cordilleras stays about the same: 20% to 30%.

The loss of work at Vocational Rehabilitation Workshop has affected the Cordilleras patients. The Center may have to have a modified workshop. Pre-vocational training at Belmont Workshop @ 85¢ an hour doesn't now lead to further work. More patients are now going to Friendship Centers.

When Cordilleras employs the fourth social worker needed (and she is oriented) family groups will start.

If the County is agreeable, about 30 chronic patients could be accommodated in the first floor quarters formerly used by Paul Jensen. Renovation, staffing and dietary changes would all have to be taken into account. The Committee agreed to recommend to the County that this be done.

About one-third of Cordilleras patients went home for Thanksgiving. 70 to 80 people were left. A list of Christmas suggestions for the patients will be made available to this Committee.

There will be a Friendship Center party on December 13th.

Reported by Dorothy Texier

MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD MEETING 12/1/82

Of interest to AMI: The Director's report was a question and answer format,

Q: What is the status of the Medi-Cal, Short/Doyle Consolidation?

A: It is still in limbo. A waiver from the Federal government guidelines for states must be forthcoming; then a plan must be devised that is acceptable to the psychiatric society and other professional care givers, as well as to the County.

Q: What about the defunct Guadalupe Mental Health Center?

A: The County is trying to integrate the 125 cases with the North County Mental Health Center. To date, 25 of the cases have been seen by North County. (Editorial Question: What about the other 100?).

PLEASE NOTE: There will not be an AMI Bd meeting in December.

Other Mental Health Meetings:

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

AMI of Napa State Hospital will not have a meeting in December.

MATEO LODGE AND DEXTER HOUSE

Remember Mateo Lodge and Dexter House during the holiday season. They need a couch, easy chairs, end tables and carpeting. Please call them if you have any of these items to donate. All donations are tax deductible, checks can be made out to Mateo Lodge, Inc., 70 Dexter St., Redwood City, CA 94063.

If you wish to visit or need information call: Mark or Dan at Dexter House, 365-9453
Tony or Fidelina at Mateo, 365-7043
Ian Adamson 408-336-5336

Ian Adamson, Coordinator

MHAB Meeting - Continued

Cordilleras: Census is 105. 108 census is needed to break even. San Francisco does not always use its allotted 12 beds. The Director will look into this.

A very important resolution was passed to be sent to the County Supervisors as follows: The Mental Health Advisory Board recommends that the main floor space at Cordilleras vacated by the Coroner, be converted to a long term, low stress and low expectation ward for about 30 chronic patients.

This recommendation was made by the Cordilleras Liaison Committee and presented by the MHAB representative to that Committee. The Board voted to adopt this recommendation.

This idea was first presented by PAS, and is an issue AMI should now take hold of and fight for.

Sue Miller, Observer

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THANK YOU!!

AMI thanks the members who have contributed so much time and effort to keep the paper work done, keep the office open, get the mailing out and all the other chores that must be kept up.

A special thanks to Dick Zipser, who has been our Treasurer for several years and who followed up on all the bureaucratic forms and requirements for our tax-exempt status. Dick has also been responsible for mailing the newsletter and has designed an ingenious method of sorting for zip codes. We are going to miss you Dick.

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OMBUDSMAN PROGRAM

Aileen Jennings, Chairman of the Facility Ailview Project in Los Angeles, is a member of CAMI and is attempting to get all CAMI affiliates involved in the Ombudsman Program.

The purpose of the Ombudsman Program is to cooperatively improve the quality of care for all residents of Long-term care facilities, including residential and board and care.

This program is administered through the California State Department of Aging, but is equally concerned about the mentally ill. Comprehensive state certified training and on-going supervision for participants is offered. The Ombudsman works with the patient, his family, skilled nursing facility or other facility, and nursing staff in resolving problems.

AB 1433 by Rosenthal was enacted into law as of January 1, 1980, making it mandatory for all Ombudsman to have access into the facilities.

Ombudsman continued:

This is an opportunity to volunteer for a service which could improve quality of life for those in long term care. To quote Aileen Jennings, "Our organization is full of caring people. Let's make our caring count!"

San Mateo County has a Project Director, Bea Lopez, who is willing to talk to groups about the program. Training sessions will be offered in late January.

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The following article is from the MARIN PARENT ADVOCATES, December 1982 Newsletter:

THE ROLE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

The role of the Public Defender in the conservatorship hearing process has been of concern to MPA members for some time. Loraine Miller, MHAB member, asked that group to request a meeting with Public Defender Ruth Young. Loraine developed the following list of questions gathered from families:

1. How does the Public Defender's office decide who is ready for court?
2. Are the attorneys from that office prepared for interviewing persons whose thought processes may be distorted? What inservice training is given to these attorneys?
3. How are the conservatorship office recommendations evaluated?
4. Are doctors always consulted and how much consideration is given to their testimony?
5. How much contact is there with the client before the court appearance? How is the client prepared?
6. Are medical records available? If so, is any attention given to past history?
7. Is thought given to the consequences to client and family of sudden termination of conservatorship? How firm are plans in regard to housing? Income? Medical care and medication? Family relationships?

On November 9 in the Civic Center Public Defender's Office a meeting was held with Ruth Young, staff attorneys David Brown and Marla Osterloh, Mental Health Director Beverly Abbott and Ed Walker from Transitional Services, Maya Galdstern and Loraine Miller of MHAB, and Margaret Greene of MPA.

The Public Defender's Office feels very strongly that their main obligation is to free the client if that is what the client wants and they do all they to "win" the case against conservatorship. The discussion really only served to open up the subject for discussion and acquaint their office with our feelings of dissatisfaction and extreme frustration. We expect to try again to meet and establish some common ground for the welfare of the mentally ill person.

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We felt that the above would be of interest to AMI members in San Mateo as we have the same problems and frustrations.