

RESOLUTION - CALIFORNIA ALLIANCE FOR THE MENTALLY ILL

PRIORITY POPULATION FOR CAMI ADVOCACY

Whereas;

The basic mission of deinstitutionalization was originally to provide community based treatment for the most seriously ill; however, only limited aspects of the original conception have been implemented for several reasons:

1. Community programs have not received adequate funding.
2. Long term living facilities have not been recognized as being a top priority, in fact, there has been a reluctance to use mental health monies for this purpose.
3. The interest of most workers has gone in other directions and focuses largely on the treatment needs of the healthy but unhappy.

Whereas;

Other mental health advocacy organizations have tended to follow the lead of the mental health professionals. The thrust has been for a system to provide mental health services to all people and the existence of those patients most in need has been largely ignored.

Whereas;

The mission of C.A.M.I. from the very beginning was to speak up and advocate for this forgotten group of patients, the severely mentally disabled, the chronically mentally disabled and their families.

Therefor be it resolved;

In its advocacy efforts, C.A.M.I. shall concentrate on the needs of the severely mentally disabled, the chronically mentally disabled and their family members.

Be it further resolved;

That we guard against fragmentation of our efforts, such as devoting attention, time and energy to other populations, which would detract from and be detrimental to these priority populations of C.A.M.I.

Recommended by C.A.M.I. Legislative Work Group in Sacramento, August 21, 1984

Proposed by The Alliance for the Mentally Ill of Napa State Hospital and The Alliance for the Mentally Ill of San Mateo County.