

Forensic Mental Health Association, 816 N. 1st St., Suite D, San Jose, California 95110
September 1980, Volume 1, No. 1

FROM THE EDITORS

This, the first issue of _____ contains feature articles: a profile on the Forensic Office in Sacramento; a focus article on the Conference Planning Committee for 1981; an article on the 1980 Conference. It also includes information on upcoming events, job opportunities, and a legislative corner. This and all future issues of the _____ will be mailed to FMHAC members only. If you are a member and have not received your copy, please notify us.

We would like to solicit your comments and suggestions about and contributions to _____. The deadline for submitting ideas or articles for the next issue is November 1, 1980. Let us hear from you!

FIFTH ANNUAL FORENSIC MENTAL HEALTH TRAINING CONFERENCE - ASILOMAR

The 5th Annual Conference "Clinical Realities in Forensic Mental Health Practice was held at Asilomar Conference Grounds on April 20-22, 1980. From all indications it was a resounding success!

Originally, the Conference Planning Committee planned for 150 participants. A total of 308 attended the Conference!

From the opening session at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday until the closing with lunch on Tuesday, the participation was enthusiastic, friendly and active. Even the cold and the rain didn't seem to dampen the spirits.

The conference evaluation forms returned by participants gave rave reviews about workshop content, speakers and location. Many comments were made about the value of the informal contact; sharing of ideas and information, the opportunity for state hospital and community staff to meet, the chance to share experiences with other programs -relate "war stories."

The Conference Planning Committee expresses a big thank you to all the presenters and people who helped with the Conference.

SIXTH ANNUAL FORENSIC MENTAL HEALTH CONFERENCE ANNOUNCED

The 6th Annual FMHC will be held at Asilomar Conference Grounds on February 18-20, 1981. Mark your calendar and make plans to attend.

Registration will begin at 3:00 p.m. Wednesday, February 18, 1981 and the Conference will close with lunch on Friday, February 20, 1981.

Asilomar was chosen again for a couple of reasons 1) the costs for the conference could be kept low again 2) numerous positive comments were received as to the pleasant surroundings being conducive to a conference. The Conference Planning Committee for 1981 is being Chaired by Charolette Saito, Orange County Mental Health. If you are interested in helping, have ideas, suggestions wish to present a paper, etc., contact Charolette at:

Mrs. Charolette Saito
Health Services Agency
515 North Sycamore St.
Santa Ana, CA 92701

Registration and Conference information will be mailed out in November, 1980.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Contra Costa County: The Contra Costa County Criminal Justice Health Services Program of the Department of Health Services is seeking qualified applicants to fill positions in a mental health program in the County's new and innovative detention facility in Martinez. Successful candidates will work full time in the new County Detention Facility's Medical/Psychiatric housing module.

Applicants should possess, as minimum qualifications, a bachelor's degree in a related field with experience in working with criminal justice, substance abuse, or similar populations. Clinicians should have a strong background in assessment, diagnosis, and psychotherapy. A license (i.e., MFCC, LCSW) is desirable.

Experience with inpatient psychiatric patients is preferred. Minority applicants are actively sought.

To indicate interest in these positions, send a vita with references and a current telephone number to: CRIMINAL JUSTICE HEALTH SERVICES, 2500 Alhambra Avenue, Martinez, CA 94553. Attention: John Kincaid, Supervising Psychologist.

Santa Clara County: Psychiatrists; full time or half time. Openings for staff psychiatrists in Santa Clara County Mental Health-Criminal Justice Program. Challenging mental health treatment program working with the mentally ill in county jails. An excellent opportunity to learn and do a new form of psychiatry. Contact Pamela Craig, Program Supervisor, (408)299-4294.

If your program has a job opening or you are looking for a job send in your ad.

NEW DIRECTOR OF DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH'S OFFICE OF FORENSIC SERVICES

Dr. Louis L. Beerman, a Clinical Psychologist and the former head of the Dept. of Mental Health's Central Coast Service Area, was appointed director of the Office of Forensic Services in August.

Dr. Beerman received a master's degree from San Jose State University and a doctorate degree from the University of Oregon. Since 1965 he has worked with the 7th Step Program at San Quentin. He has served as a consultant on the President's Commission on Mental Retardation and also with the Law Enforcement Assistance Agency concerning the problems of Dual Diagnosis patients.

Of immediate concern, Dr. Beerman states, is the possible passage into law of SB 410. This bill would allow law enforcement agencies and the courts in a criminal case to subpoena therapy records and other information about a Mentally Disordered Offender committed to a state hospital for prior offenses. The "other information" may include subpoenaing the therapist to testify. It is not clear that only information concerning the patient would be released but may include references to other group members or patients he might have been involved with. Dr. Beerman states he is strongly opposed to this bill.

SB 410 is currently on Governor Brown's desk and can become law within 30 days without his signature if no action is taken to veto it.

As a long range goal for the Office of Forensic Services, Dr. Beerman says he would like to see the Office do a better job evaluating programs in the state hospitals, jails, and communities. "Data needs to be gathered and evaluated as to what kind of treatment works and what works better".

The staff working with Dr. Beerman in the Office are: Jeanne Williams-secretary, Rick Mandella and Dr. Dennis Kleg.

SPEAKERS/CONSULTANTS AVAILABLE

Planning? Ready to start? A forensic mental health program? The FMHAC has resources available to assist you in developing, implementing and improving your programs. Speakers/consultants can be recommended for administration, program development and implementation, legal issues, clinical techniques and approaches in both custody, hospital, and community settings.

Contact the office if you have a training/consultation need.

Members who would like to be placed on the speakers/consultant referral list should send a resume; list of topics/areas which they are interested in teaching and/or providing consultation; fee schedule.

LEGISLATIVE CORNER

New law affecting judicially committed persons!
(Just when you thought you understood the old law).

Assembly Bill No. 2751 - Nolan

1. Bill combines and revises provisions for outpatient status under certain circumstances for P.C. 1026 (not guilty by reason of insanity), P.C. 1370 (incompetent to stand trial), and Mentally Disordered Sex Offenders.
2. Requires the state summary criminal history information (rap sheet) on a P.C. 1026 or MDSO be furnished to the state hospital or other public or private mental health facility treating the individual when needed for treatment planning.
3. No person shall be admitted to a state hospital or other treatment facility or placed on outpatient status, without having been evaluated by the county mental health director or a designee.
4. Extended committment is now for 2 years instead of 1 year.
5. Outpatient Status: (they changed all the numbers, folks). Some key, significant changes! Get a copy of the bill and read carefully Penal Code 1600. It is effective January 1, 1981 for persons committed to Community Outpatient Status at the present time.
6. Sec. 17.5 - Penal Code 4029 states that in county jails equal services must be available for men and women. P.C. 4029 (e) discusses inpatient psychiatric facilities in county jails and their availability for male and female prisoners.

The bill is a lot to wade through but does make some very significant procedural changes for judicially committed persons.

LEGAL OPINIONS

People vs. Reyes: Imposes certain minimum due process requirements on state hospitals/local facilities when a Mentally Disordered Sex Offender is given a "b" recommendation under W & I Code Section 6325. Before a person can be terminated from the MDSO program he must at least be informed of the grounds for his proposed exclusion, be given notice of his right to respond and to respond in person before a responsible official and the opportunity to do so, and be given access to the information relied on by those who propose to terminate his treatment.

A formal policy and procedures are being developed to provide guidance by the Dept. of Mental Health.

People Vs. Poggi, in relation to People vs. Compelleebee and People vs. Lakey: Appellate decisions affirming the extension of commitment. People vs. Poggi expresses an opinion on the issue of amenability to treatment which is in complete opposition to the opinion in the People vs. Compelleebee and People vs. Lakey cases. The issue of whether amenability is required for extension of commitment of an MDSO will now have to be resolved by the California Supreme Court.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Greetings to _____ readers. You have just received and read the first issue! We solicit your comments and contributions. Through an active, although often lengthy grapevine, we know many of you are involved in interesting and innovative activities designed to improve mental health services for those involved with the criminal justice system. The sharing of information about those activities could well help someone else.

The deadline for submitting contributions is November 1, 1980! Send them to:

Forensic Mental Health Assoc.
of California
816 North 1st Suite D.
San Jose, CA 95110

WHAT IS MY NAME?

As you can see, a name hasn't been chosen for the newsletter. What should it be called? Submit your ideas to us-no matter how "off the wall" before November 1, 1980. The person submitting the winning name will receive a \$15 prize. That's good for maybe two drinks and a big Mac.

THOUGHT TO PONDER

We the willing, led by the unknown
are doing the impossible for the ungrateful
We have done so much,
for so long,
with so little,
We are now qualified to do anything
with nonothing.

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FMHAC membership is available to anyone
interested in improving forensic mental
health services. Annual membership fee-
\$10 (includes subscription to _____
_____ and other association
publications.) For information and
application contact:

Pamela Craig
Forensic Mental Health Assoc.
of California
816 North 1st St., Suite D
San Jose, CA 95110

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