

Fall/Winter 2007-2008

Los Angeles County Mental Health Magazine

Minds & Matters

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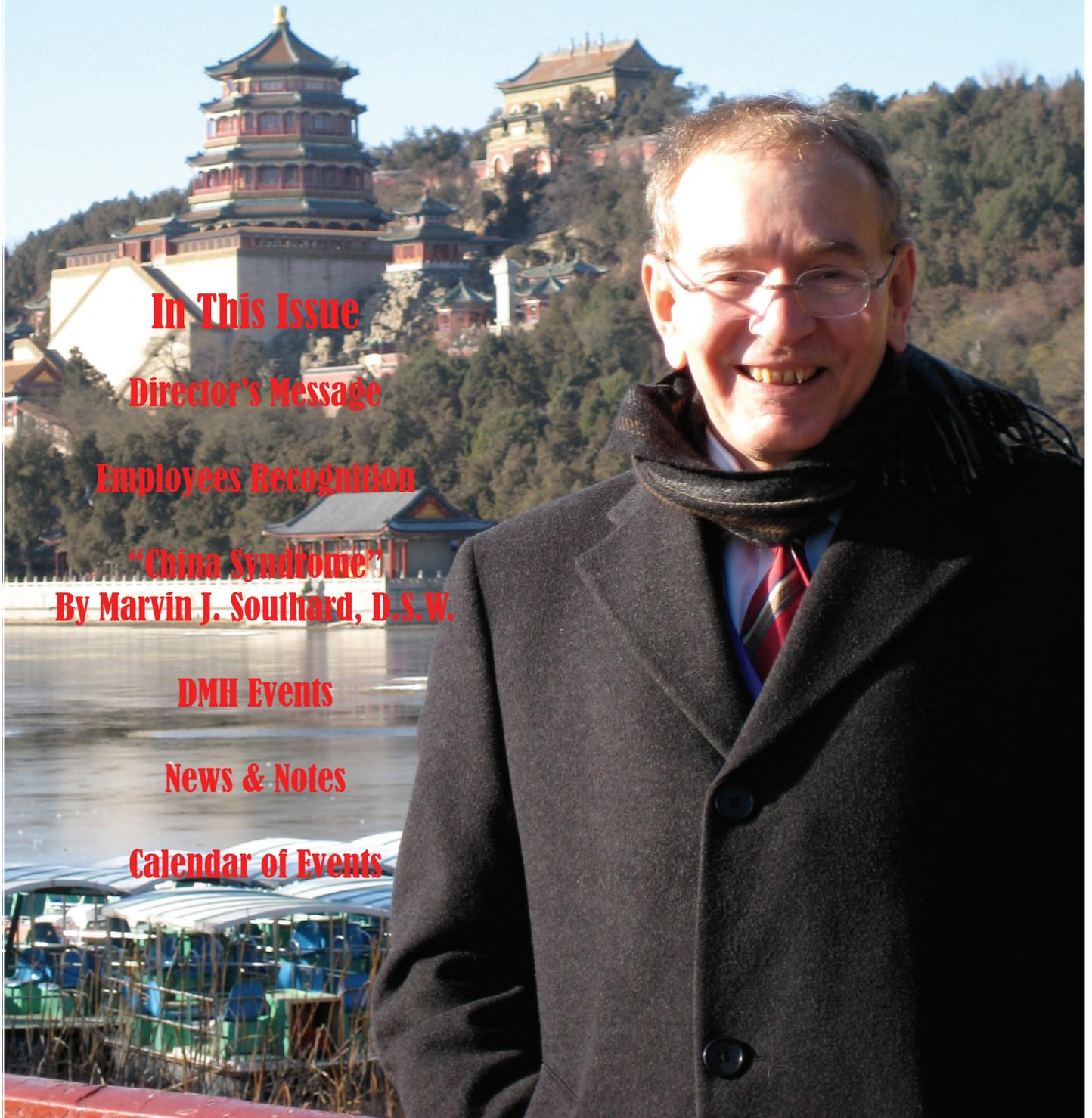
"China Syndrome"

By Marvin J. Southard, D.S.W.

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Message from the Director

HOPE, WELLNESS, AND RECOVERY

I have had the honor and privilege of being a leader in the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health for almost ten years now. During that time all of us, clients, families, County staff, community agencies, and the Board of Supervisors, have accomplished many important things together. One of the things that I am most proud of is our formulation of the Comprehensive Community Care (CCC) document in 2000. CCC was conceptualized as a “process towards a client and family focused mental health delivery system.” In many ways, our efforts in CCC pre-figured the recovery vision embodied in the Assembly Bill 2034 programs and the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA). If you look at the milestones that we outlined in CCC, they include many of the goals we have set for ourselves in the MHSA. Further, one of the key over-arching strategies that we articulated in the CCC was “developing a wellness, remission, and recovery focus.”

But seven years have passed. The vision that we adopted in the CCC—“We make our community better by providing world-class mental health services”—served us well, but it has limitations too. The most significant of those limitations is that by focusing on services, it could appear that provision of “services” rather than richer lives for clients and families was the goal of our common efforts. So the time has come for us to consolidate the gains we have made in the last decade, to reflect on the things that we have learned and on the mistakes that we have made and move forward to a better and clearer articulation of the vision, mission, and values that underpin the collaborative work that we all do together.

Finally, congratulations to all of our individual and program award recipients. We had a Departmental record of 33 award winners in 2007.

Sincerely,

Marvin J. Southard, D.S.W.
Director of Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health



Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health

Hope, Wellness, and Recovery



Vision

Partnering with clients, families, and communities to create hope, wellness, and recovery.

Mission

Enriching lives through partnerships designed to strengthen the community's capacity to support recovery and resiliency.

Values



Integrity: We conduct ourselves professionally according to the highest ethical standards.

Respect: We recognize the uniqueness of every individual and treat all people in a way that affirms their personal worth and dignity.

Accountability: We take responsibility for our choices and their outcomes.

Collaboration: We work together toward common goals by partnering with the whole community, sharing knowledge, building consensus, and sharing decision-making.

Dedication: We will do whatever it takes to improve the lives of our clients and communities.



Transparency: We openly convey our ideas, decisions, and outcomes to ensure trust in our organization.

Quality and Excellence: We identify the highest personal, organizational, professional, and clinical standards and commit ourselves to achieving those standards by continually improving every aspect of our performance.

DIVISION OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Employees Recognition



March 2007

Julie Valdez
ACCESS Center



The Los Angeles County's public employee recognition program, "L.A. County S.T.A.R.S." (Special Talents for Achieving Remarkable Service) honored seven Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (DMH) employees and programs for their outstanding "Service Excellence" and "Organizational Effectiveness." Overall, DMH had eight L.A. County S.T.A.R.S. award recipients in 2007.

Joining the group of new honorees: Rio Hondo Mental Health Center's Healthy Living Group Team (June), Monju Shome of Arcadia Mental Health Center's Mental Health Services Act Full Service Partnership Office (July), Amy Kress of Urgent Community Service Project (August), Long Beach Mental Health Center's Asian Pacific Psychiatric Team (September), Sussan Hivand of Santa Clarita Mental Health Center (October), and Norma Fritsche of Program Support Bureau (December—Pictured above from left to right: Acting Chief Deputy Director Dr. Robin Kay, Deputy Director Dennis Murata, Norma Fritsche, Board Chair Yvonne B. Burke, and Director Dr. Marvin J. Southard). Previous DMH L.A. County S.T.A.R.S. award recipients: Julie Valdez of DMH ACCESS Center (March) and Wendi Tovey of San Fernando Mental Health Center (April).

Congratulations to all of the 2007 DMH
L.A. County S.T.A.R.S. award winners

April 2007

Wendi Tovey
San Fernando
Health Center



The L.A. County Department of Human Resources has developed a FAQ brochure on the L.A. County S.T.A.R.S. program.

To nominate a DMH co-worker for consideration, contact Employee Recognition at (213) 738-3089.

For more information on L.A. County S.T.A.R.S., go to <http://stars@lacounty.gov>



Rio Hondo Mental Health Center's Healthy Living Program was named L.A. County S.T.A.R.S. for Service Excellence in June 2007.



Monju Shome of MESA Full Service Partnership Office was named L.A. County S.T.A.R.S. for Organizational Effectiveness in July 2007.



Amy Kress of Urgent Community Service Project was named L.A. County S.T.A.R.S. for Organizational Effectiveness in August 2007.



Long Beach Asian Pacific Mental Health Program was named L.A. County S.T.A.R.S. for Service Excellence in September 2007.



Sussan Hivand of Santa Clarita Mental Health Center was named L.A. County S.T.A.R.S. for Organizational Effectiveness in October 2007.

Employees Recognition

Retirements

Names & Years of County Service

July 2007

Suzanne Bjork
Marilyn Sweet
(10 years)

August 2007

Betty Harden
(23 years)

Daniel Sherman
(21 years)

September 2007

Diane Ballesteros
(16 years)

Paul Blanco
(20 years)

Mitchell Curry
(15 years)

Diane Matthew
(18 years)

Carole Matthews
(21 years)

Katherine Menna
(20 years)

Susan Morris
(37 years)

Claude Petite
(21 years)

Marsha Turner
(35 years)

October 2007

Oscar Mendiola
(26 years)

Norman Stone
(10 years)

December 2007

Dixie Shelton
(23 years)

Source: Mechelle Brown
Human Resources Bureau



Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, the Chief Executive Office, and the Quality and Productivity Commission hosted the 21st Annual Productivity and Quality Award ceremony and luncheon held at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion on October 24, 2007.

This year's theme "Leading the Quest for Excellence!" underscores the Commission's commitment to promoting creativity, innovation, and collaboration. It also highlights the County's commitment to department programs that support performance measurement and the strategic plan. Recognition of these high quality projects demonstrates that the dedicated workforce continues to thrive in this ever-changing environment.

The Department of Mental Health was the recipient of 14 awards, including the Emergency Outreach Bureau's Case Assessment Management Program (CAMP), a collaborative partnership with the Los Angeles Police Department, which captured the prestigious "Bronze Eagle" Award symbolic of the "Top-3" programs in Los Angeles County.

The honorees were also recognized at the Board of Supervisors meeting on November 11, 2007.



Case Assessment Management Program (CAMP) Team comprised of DMH and LAPD staff celebrate the Bronze Eagle Award with the Star Wars Stormtroopers from 501st Legion Southern California Garrison.



Tara Nixon of the Office of the Medical Director Pharmacy Unit was presented the "Personal Best" Award. Pictured left to right: Los Angeles County Chief Executive Officer William T. Fujioka, Quality & Productivity Commission Chair Jeanne L. Kennedy, DMH Director Dr. Marvin J. Southard, and Quality & Productivity Managers Vicki Pierce and Ken Kondo.



Specialized Foster Care Team, under the leadership of Dr. Tony Beliz and Anna Suarez, was presented PQA Commissioner's Memorial Award at Board of Supervisors meeting on November 11, 2007. Joining the DMH & DCFS staff pictured left to right: Supervisors Don Knabe, Gloria Molina, Yvonne B. Burke, DMH Director Dr. Marvin J. Southard and DCFS Director Trish Ploehn.

In My Own Words:

“China Syndrome...”

Written by:

**Marvin J.
Southard, D.S.W.**

**Director of Los
Angeles County
Department of
Mental Health**

**Photographs by:
John Bola**





Marvin J. Southard, D.S.W., Director of the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health was invited by University of Southern California School of Social Work International Program Director Dan Hester to be one of the speakers at the International Forum on Disability and Development "Caring, Participation and Action" held at Peking University's Overseas Exchange Center in Beijing, China on December 12, 2007. With the unexpected cancellation of a United Nations speaker, Dr. Southard's presentation titled "Transforming a System for Treating Mental Disabilities—Mental Health Services Act" became the keynote address during the Government session at the three-day conference.

A few years back, there was a movie starring Jane Fonda called the "China Syndrome." It had nothing at all to do with China, but the title came to mind as I reflected on my recent trip to Beijing. I thought of the situation in China as a syndrome because what I saw brought to mind a distinct or characteristic pattern (syndrome) associated with rapid social change. The pattern includes some positive characteristics and some which appear negative. On the positive side there is an atmosphere of energy, enthusiasm and the sense that anything might be possible. On the negative side there is a quality of uprooted ness, a sense that things are loose from their moorings and that the needs and desires of some people are being ignored in the rush towards the "greater good" of economic development.

I had the opportunity to travel to Beijing at the invitation of Peking University and the University of Southern California. I was asked to give a talk at the International Forum on Disability and Development as a part of a delegation from Southern California on the topic of "Transforming a Large System Serving Persons with Mental Disabilities." The event was a part of the presentation of the research output of the Second All China Survey on the status of persons with disabilities. The first survey had been done in 1983, so this survey represented a significant new look at disability in the context of the massive changes in Chinese society.

My talk on transformation was moved into a keynote spot because a speaker from the United Nations needed to cancel his presentation. The talk was obviously about the change process we are undergoing here in Los Angeles as we focus on supporting hope, wellness, and recovery in the

lives of persons dealing with mental illness in their lives and families. It felt a bit odd presenting to an audience most of whom were wearing headphones for the simultaneous translation. But, from the questions and reactions of the audience, the presentation seemed to have been very well received. What seemed to draw the most interest was my description of our Stakeholder Process and how we have tried to use as the fulcrum for systems change the engagement of stakeholders in decision making centered around clients' and families' perspectives. In terms of the content of our "transformation," the concepts of Full Service Partnerships, Wellness Centers, and Field Capable Clinical Services drew the most comments.

I had the opportunity to tour the Psychiatric Hospital associated with Peking University with the rest of our delegation. Our host was Dr. Huang who, besides running this facility, probably the best in China, is also the Director of China's version of the National Institute of Mental Health. She was very gracious, treated us to a wonderful luncheon of Peking duck and answered our barrage of questions. The mental health treatment system is on the brink of a massive change. At the moment, care is pretty much limited to inpatient care with some medication follow up on an outpatient hospital basis. Efforts are being made for creating a more community-based treatment system, and plans are being put into place to train perhaps 100,000 psychiatric social workers in the next five years. At present, there isn't even an approved job description for psychiatric social workers in government service. The delegation's hope for China is that as the country embarks on creating a community-based mental health system, they learn from some of the missteps that we took in the West and move directly into a recovery-based system that reinforces the family support networks, and copes with the issues of stigma which appear to be even larger in the Chinese context than they are here.

The syndrome that I described earlier for China (which has some parallels in our own systems change effort in Los Angeles) affects not only the economic sphere, but also the social service arena. China is energetically trying to create a social service support system that (surprisingly for an allegedly socialistic society) has not previously existed. As these changes are being attempted, stakeholders representing the status quo are threatened. And those who are trying to make the changes are not completely clear about what changes to make and how to bring about any significant change. As in Los Angeles, I think the only constructive approach to the dilemmas brought about by the change syndrome is to pay attention to the needs of clients and families as those needs are expressed by clients and families. This is the route to hope, wellness, and recovery.

DID YOU KNOW? *Beijing, China will serve as host of the 2008 Summer Olympic Games, August 4-24. Picture on page 6 is the official logo for the Beijing Olympic Games.*

Summer/Fall 2007

DMH EVENTS

June



More than 200 clients, consumers and family members attended the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health's (DMH) Hope & Wellness Conference for Spanish speakers held at St. Anne on June 8.



District Chief Carol Vernon of Augustus F. Hawkins Mental Health Center and Lisa Wong, CalWORKs Program Coordinator at the Downtown Mental Health Center, were featured in KCET-TV "Life and Times" Show hosted by Val Zavala on June 19. The news special showcased four segments: "Mental Health Services Act Tax Paying Off?", "Conclerge Medicine," "Ovarian Cancer Symptoms," and "Medi-Cal Care for Muslims."

Sources: KCET-TV "Life and Times"

Pictured above: Lisa Wong and Producer Sam Louie



Los Angeles County Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke hosted a Fatherhood Symposium titled "The Pursuit of Happiness" at Los Angeles Southwest Community College on June 30. The symposium featured guest speakers including Reverend Cecil Murray, formerly of the First A.M.E. Church. The day was filled with live entertainment, continental breakfast, lunch, keynote speakers and special breakout sessions.

Source: L.A. Watts Times

Pictured above: DMH staff hosted a workshop titled "Raising Non-Violent Children in a Violent Society"



July



The Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health honored its "Employees of the Year" at a special ceremony held at Descanso Gardens in La Canada Flintridge on July 12. List of winners included:

Tara Nixon of Pharmacy Services Bureau (Headquarters Support), Santa Clarita Mental Health Center (Program Support), Jennifer Rice of Santa Clarita Mental Health Center (Service to Consumer), District Chief Mary Marx (Manager of the Year), District Chief Norma Fritsche (Lifetime Achievement) and Rio Hondo Healthy Living Groups Team (Team of the Year).

Source: DMH e*NEWS



Three Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health programs were selected as recipients of the 2007 National Association of Counties (NaCo) Awards—Mental Health Commission and Arts Center College of

Design for "Anti-Stigma Busting" Campaign, CalWORKs Homeless Families Project and Emergency Outreach Bureau/Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) Case Assessment Management Program (CAMP).

The awards were presented to this year's recipients at a special ceremony held at the Greater Richmond Convention Center in Richmond, Virginia on July 15.

Source: National Association of Counties

August



Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (DMH) Service Area 7 joined Supervisor Gloria Molina, U.S. Congresswoman Hilda Solis and California State Senator Gloria Romero at the Grand Opening of the Plaza Community Service located in unincorporated City Terrace on August 11.

The Grand Opening of the facility marked a milestone for the citizens of City Terrace and neighboring East Los Angeles and Monterey Park areas as they once again have a community center that provides mental health services, youth and family services, child development center, and "Esperanza" Drug and Alcohol Recovery program.

Pictured at top: Grand Opening cutting ribbon ceremony and below is DMH Service Area 7 staff who provided information on the Mental Health Services Act Community Services and Supports Programs.

Source: The County Digest

Members of the 501st Legion Southern California Garrison battled the "Dark Side" of the Los Angeles freeway rush hour traffic and stopped by the Edmund D. Edelman Westside Mental Health Center Children's Program to bring fun, laughter and cheer to 18 clients, friends, parents and other family members as they celebrated the 30th Anniversary of the release of the motion picture "Star Wars" on August 28. The children were presented activity books, participated in a "Padawan" Jedi Master Training session hosted by "Obi-Shawn-Kenobi" and "Rebel Alliance Pilot." Following the training session, the children designed "Star Wars" masks that allowed them to utilize their creativity. Providing security for the event were the "Empire's Stormtroopers."



Reports from the event stated that DMH staff were dressed in "Star Wars" attire. Pictured top right from left to right: Intermediate Typist Clerk Viviana Lopez who pictured above on the left were dressed as Expanded of the Universe "Imperial Officer Admiral Aala," "Yoda," and "Obi-Shawn Kenobi." Pictured to the left: Jedi Training Session.

September



Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health staff representing Mental Health Court Program, Juvenile Justice, Service Areas 2, 3, 4, 7 and 8, and Community & Government Relations Division joined other County Departments and participated in the Third Annual "L.A. County Fair Day" held at the L.A.

County Fairplex in Pomona on September 9. The highlight of the day was the "L.A. County Fair Day" parade that once again set another record for the most entries in an L.A. County Fair parade. Leading the DMH



contingent were Juvenile Justice Program Manager Karen Streich and her daughter Nicole. The DMH staff were riding in the Emergency Outreach Bureau's (EOB) Sheriff's Department MTA-CRU truck driven by Deputy McClelland and riding shotgun was Susan Newberry. As each County department had its own brand identity, DMH staff wore brain hats to symbolize mental health. They were the hit of the day as requests for brain hats came from other department employees.



Pictured at the top: Karen Streich and her daughter Nicole. Pictured on the right: DMH EOB Sheriff's MTA-CRU truck draped with the Mental Health Services Act banner on both sides of the vehicle. Pictured on the bottom: Riding on the back of the vehicle safely secured were Mental Health Court Program staff led by Alisa Dunn, L.C.S.W. (located at the top center).

Sources: DMH e*NEWS and The County Digest

The Board of Supervisors approved funding for a new Santa Clarita Mental Health Center to be located in Valencia on September 18. The former center sustained fire and water damage in December 2006. The new 11,500 square foot office will feature a larger waiting room area, additional parking, and more individual and group rooms.

Source: The Signal



Los Angeles County Department Director Dr. Marvin J. Southard presented awards to staff prior to the start of the Expanded Management meeting held at the California Endowment Center for Healthy Families on September 11.

Honorees included the following: Kevin Tsang and Raymond Yee for 25 years of County service; Veronica Jones for 40 years of County service; Susan Baltimore of the Harbor-UCLA Medical Center was named as the UCLA School of Social Welfare "Extra Mile Award" recipient; Carmen Diaz was presented a special commendation for her dedicated service and continued commitment to enrich the lives of consumers and families as a member of the California Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission; and flowers were presented to Employee Recognition Coordinator Vicki Pierce for 40 years of service.

Source: DMH e*NEWS



Winter 2007

DMH EVENTS



More than 150,000 attended the four-day Los Angeles "HAWGAWEE" Korean Festival, September 13-16. DMH staff as well as clients and consumers team together in providing information on the Mental Health Services Act programs. DMH was one of five County Departments participating, arranged by Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke's Health Deputy David Ryu.

Source: Korea Times

October



Los Angeles County Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich and the Board of Supervisors proclaimed October 7-13 as "Mental Health Awareness Week" on October 5.

Picture above: Left to Right: Director Dr. Marvin J. Southard, Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich and PIO Il Ken Kondo

Source: County Digest

Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health and Harbor-UCLA Medical Center hosted the 13th Annual Asian American Mental Health Training Conference at the Airport Marriott Hotel in Long Beach as part of "Mental Health Awareness Week in Los Angeles County" on October 5.

Source: Sing Tao



Members of the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health staff from the clinics, law enforcement programs, including "Team Southard" participated in the Fourth Annual National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Minds of America 5-K Run/Walk held at the Santa Monica Promenade on October 6.

Source: The County Digest



Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (DMH) Mental Health Services Act Transition Age Youth Navigators participated at KTLA 5 CW "Kids Day LA" at Exposition Park on October 20.

Pictured to the right: Ken Kondo presented KTLA 5 CW anchors Frank Buckley & Michaela Pereira with a County scroll.



Source: KTLA 5 CW & DMH e*NEWS

Source: Malibu Times

Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health hosted the Eighth Annual Law Enforcement Conference "A Cry for Help or an Act of Terrorism: A Collaborative Approach for First Responders" held at California State University, Los Angeles Gold Eagle Hospitality Room on October 24.

Sources: DMH e* NEWS



Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health Emergency Outreach Bureau Disaster Services, Psychiatric Mobile Response Teams (PMRT), and Service Areas 1, 2 & 5 teamed up to provide much need assistance to the Southern California wildfire victims in Castaic, Santa Clarita and Malibu, October 26-31.

Source: Malibu Times and The Signal

November

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors approved Mental Health Services Act funding to provide services to 200 Serious Emotionally Disturbed (SED) youth residing at the Probation Department's camps on November 6.

Source: Antelope Valley Press



Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors authorized \$6.8 million of one-time Mental Health Services Act Community Services and Supports Plan funding for several projects, including upgrading the ACCESS Center, development of an Urgent Care Center in Sylmar and workforce development stipend program for Marriage Family Therapist students on November 21.

Pictured above is the ACCESS Center's staff who handles more than 165,000 calls per year and serves as a national hotline for mental health information and referral services.

Source: San Fernando Sun's Cover Story "Urgent Care Mental Health Center Will Be Built at Olive View Medical Center"

In less than a month, Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health Emergency Outreach Bureau Disaster Services and Service Area 5 staff provided much needed assistance and information at the Local Assistance at Malibu Bluff Park to the Corral Wildfire victims on November 27.

December



Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health teamed up with County Departments and community-based agencies to provide assistance to the homeless residing in Pomona and Inland Valley as part of the Countywide effort in the National Homeless Connect Day held at the Pomona First Christian Church on Dec. 6.

Pictured above: MHS Service Area 3 Navigator Dwayne Washington signing up a homeless individual for temporary housing and MHS services. Pictured to the right is Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich's Senior Field Deputy Jay Gomez talking to DMH staff.



Source: Inland Valley Daily Bulletin



Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health, Department of Public Social Services and Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority co-hosted the DMH/DPSS CalWORKS Children's and Families Program Christmas Celebration at the Centenary Methodist Church in downtown Los Angeles on Dec. 18.

The DMH / DPSS CalWORKS Children's and Families Program is based at the Downtown Mental Health Center located in Skid Row. In addition to the Christmas gifts, the children received Walt Disney Pictures' "Underdog" t-shirts and water proof rain coats. There were special Christmas gifts for the mothers and fathers too, including warm comforters and blankets.

Sources: Telemundo Channel 52 & Rafu Shimpo



Long Beach Mental Health Center was treated to a special Christmas Eve surprise as fire fighters from City of Long Beach and Los Angeles County Public Information Officers (DMH and Fire) delivered toys to the boys and girls, ages infant to 17, participating in the Center's DMH/DPSS CalWORKS Children's and other programs.

Sources: ABC7 and Press-Telegram

DMH NEWS & NOTES

CARLOTTA CHILDS- SEAGLE NAMED ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF OLDER ADULT SYSTEMS OF CARE



Carlotta Childs-Seagle, L.C.S.W., was named Acting Deputy Director of Older Adult Systems of Care and Service Areas 2 and 5 on October 31, 2007.

A graduate of Kentucky State University located in Frankfort, Childs-Seagle earned a Bachelor's in Social Work. She received her Master's in Social Work at the University of Louisville.

Childs-Seagle began her Los Angeles County career as a Medical Social Worker based at Martin Luther King, Jr. Hospital located in Willowbrook. She transferred to Augustus Hawkins as a Senior Medical Social Worker.

During her Department of Mental Health career, Childs-Seagle has held the following positions: District Chief of Service Area 3 (San Gabriel Valley) and MacLaren Children's Center; Program Head of Service Areas 6 and 8; Mental Health Education Consultant for Service Areas 6 and 8; Countywide Children's Coordinator; Supervising Case Management Children and Youth; Psychiatric Social Worker II; and Case Manager Children and Youth.

SATKIN NAMED ACTING PATIENTS' RIGHTS PROGRAM DIRECTOR



Ellen Satkin was named Acting Patients' Rights Program Director in an announcement made by Director Marvin J. Southard on September 24, 2007. She replaces Carole Matthews who retired from the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (DMH). A veteran of

22 years with DMH, 19 of those having been with the Patients' Rights Office, Satkin is passionate about the system.

Prior to working for the County, Satkin attended the University of Southern California where she received a Master's in Social Work in 1984 and Licensed Clinical Social Work in 1987. "I believe that my background in social work provides a solid foundation for advocacy," said Satkin. In her 19 years she has worked in all facets of the Patients' Rights Office.

VEGA APPOINTED TO CALIFORNIA MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES OVERSIGHT & ACCOUNTABILITY COMMISSION



California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger appointed Eduardo Vega of Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (DMH) to the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC) on July 17, 2007.

Vega serves as Chief of the Empowerment and Advocacy Division. Prior to joining DMH,

Vega worked as Associate Director of Project Return, The Next Step, a community support program with Mental Health Association of Greater Los Angeles (2005-2007). A resident of Los Angeles, Vega was manager for National Mental Health Consumers Self Help Clearinghouse in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (2003-2005).

The State's MHSOAC's role is to ensure that services provided pursuant to the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) are cost effective and provided in accordance with recommended best practices subject to local and state oversight. The MHSOAC will ensure that accountability to taxpayers and to the public as well as the perspective and participation of members and others suffering from mental illness and their family members is a significant factor in all of its decisions and recommendations. Vega's position does not require Senate confirmation and there is no salary associated with the appointment.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR MURATA NAMED UCLA SOCIAL WELFARE "ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR"



The Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (DMH) Deputy Director Dennis Murata, M.S.W. was awarded the "Joseph Nunn Social Welfare Alumnus of the Year" by the Department of Social Welfare and Social Welfare Alumni of the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) School of Public Affairs on June 13, 2007.

Murata has worked more than 32 years in the mental health profession and the past 23 years for DMH holding various positions with increasing responsibilities. He began his DMH career as a Psychiatric Social Worker. As Deputy Director of the Department's Program Support Bureau which includes the following divisions and units: training, quality improvement, planning, outreach and engagement, standard and quality assurance, medical records, and implementation of the Mental Health Services Act.

Source Rafu Shimpo

MENTAL HEALTH COMMUNITY FORUMS

SUPERVISOR MOLINA EDUCATES COMMUNITY PROVIDERS ON CONTRACTING WITH DMH



Supervisor Gloria Molina, representing the County's First District, welcomed a standing room only crowd of more than 200 to her Mental Health Community Forum that focused on educating the attendees about how to contract with Los Angeles County and Department of Mental Health (DMH).

The forum was held at the California Endowment Center for Healthy Families Yosemite Conference Room located in downtown Los Angeles on October 24, 2007.

The forum's guest speakers included William Arroyo, M.D., who made a presentation on the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Prevention and Early Intervention planning process. DMH Program Manager Richard Kushi of the Contracts Division provided the "Do's and Don'ts" on contracting with the County and DMH.

Following the presentations, attendees had the opportunity to network with the County's Office of Small Business, MHSA coordinators from Service Areas 3 (San Gabriel Valley), 4 (Metro Los Angeles), and 7 (Southeast), and community-based organizations. For more information, contact Supervisor Molina's office at (213) 974-4111.

SUPERVISOR YAROSLAVSKY SENDS THE MESSAGE "WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE"



Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, representing the County's Third District, welcomed more than 200 to his Mental Health Community Forum held at the Sportsmen's Lodge in Studio City on November 8, 2007.

Supervisor Yaroslavsky provided a personal perspective on why he has been a strong advocate for mental health services, especially on downtown Los Angeles Skid Row area. "We know that mental illness is an illness as my daughter has demonstrated to me that there are people on Skid Row and other parts of the County who need our help," said Supervisor Yaroslavsky. "My daughter believes she can make a difference, and I have seen it firsthand. There is no daylight between all five of us as we agree these people need our help."

Just as in the previous forum, Director Dr. Marvin J. Southard provided an update on the MHSA. William Arroyo, M.D., pictured above presented on the MHSA Prevention and Early Intervention planning process and concluded with a panel discussion with Acting Chief Deputy Director Dr. Robin Kay, Deputy Director Dennis Murata, M.S.W., and Dr. Arroyo. Supervisor Yaroslavsky honored his Mental Health Commissioners Chair Jerry Lubin, AICP, Frank C. Baron, and Arnold L. Gilberg, M.D., Ph.D. For more information, contact Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky's Office at (213) 974-3333.

SUPERVISOR KNABE ENCOURAGES COMMUNITY PROVIDERS TO COLLABORATE

Supervisor Don Knabe, representing the County's Fourth District, hosted his Mental Health Community Forum at the Grand Event Center in Long Beach on October 31, 2007.



"We have a great opportunity to reach and help out those individuals who are in need of services offered through the next step of the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA), Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI)," said Supervisor Knabe. "We need to collaborate and work together on this. My staff is here to assist you to get involved in the MHSA PEI and other program planning processes."

For more information, contact Supervisor Don Knabe's Office at (213) 974-4444.



SUPERVISOR BURKE TO HOST MENTAL HEALTH COMMUNITY FORUM IN CARSON



Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke representing the Second District will host her Mental Health Community Forum at the City of Carson Community Center on April 7, 2008.

The Supervisor wants to provide her constituents information on how they can get involved in the next step of the Mental Health Services Act Prevention and Early Intervention planning process. Throughout her 30-year public service career, Supervisor Burke has been a long time advocate for mental health services. She was instrumental in the opening of a new administration building in South Los Angeles where DMH provides jail reintegration services to women (December 14, 2007). For more information, contact Supervisor Burke's Office at (213) 974-2222.

CONNECTIONS FOR LIFE THROUGH EMPLOYMENT & EDUCATION - CATHEDRAL OF OUR LADY OF THE ANGELS (APRIL 2, 2008)

Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health and Mental Health Commission will host "Connections for Life Through Employment & Education" at Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels (555 West Temple Street, Los Angeles 90012) on April 2, 2008. The event is a celebration highlighting the successes of people who have achieved their employment and educational goals. The celebration is a way to inspire others to pursue their dreams. Resources from community partners will be available to encourage people to take the next step on the path to recovery. For more information, call (213) 251-6505.

FIRST CALIFORNIA MENTAL HEALTH ADVOCACY CONFERENCE IN LOS ANGELES (APRIL 18-19, 2008)



The First California Mental Health Conference "Transformation through Advocacy," presented by Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (DMH) Empowerment and Advocacy Division will be held at the Sheraton Los Angeles Downtown located at 711 South Hope Street in Los Angeles (90017). Partnering with DMH in hosting this conference: Mental Health America, Latino Behavioral Health Institute and Pacific Clinics. The two day conference will focus on mental health advocacy and underserved communities with an emphasis on the Mental Health Services Act as a vehicle for transformation. Self-Parking is available at \$5.00 and \$10.00 for valet parking. For inquiries and information, call (213) 251-6530.

A FINAL THOUGHT



The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) announced the national anti-stigma campaign, entitled "What a Difference a Friend Makes," will target Transitional Age Youth ages 16-25 who have a high prevalence for serious mental health conditions. This age group shows the lowest rate of help-seeking behaviors. The campaign received more than \$8.8 million in donated media, which includes placement in top markets such as Los Angeles, Chicago, Philadelphia, and Boston. The Los Angeles campaign is doing well thanks to the partnership with SAMHSA/The Ad Council and Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (DMH) where Director Dr. Marvin J. Southard, Cathy Warner, John Shehee, Linda Boyd, Dr. Paul Arns, Larry Hurst, Ken Kondo, and Stephen Rivera have been featured guests on national, local radio, cable television and internet shows. A testament of how far the campaign has come in Los Angeles is illustrated by the public service ad spot that is shown on the Jumbotron at the Hollywood & Highland Complex located on the corner of Hollywood Boulevard and Highland Avenue in Hollywood, California (pictured above).

A second mental health themed public service awareness campaign was unveiled at game seven of the 2007 Major League Baseball World Series in October ("When Veterans Come Home, YOU CAN HELP"). Major League Baseball Charities, in partnership with The Ad Council and the Iraq Afghanistan Veterans of America organization, teamed up in an effort to raise awareness, and to encourage all Americans to provide support for veterans who served in Afghanistan and Iraq. The support include education, employment, and mental health services. Academy Award winning actor Tom Hanks of "Saving Private Ryan" provides the narration for the public service announcement. For more information, access www.welcomebackveterans.org.

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MINDS & MATTERS is published by the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health Community & Government Relations Division/ Public Information Officer II.
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All submissions are subject to review and editing.