



RIVERSIDE COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF
MENTAL HEALTH

**SPECIAL POINTS
OF INTEREST:**

- **Black History Month Celebration**
- **MHSA Updates**
- **Loan Assumption Program**
- **BOS Proclamation for Social Worker Recognition Month**

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What's New(s) in Mental Health

VOLUME I, ISSUE I 2009

Black History Month

By the Cultural Competency Committee

During Black History Month, the Cultural Competency Committee honored **Dr. Robert V. Guthrie**, one of the most influential and multifaceted African-American scholars of the century.

Dr. Guthrie was born in Chicago on Feb. 14, 1932, and died Nov. 6, 2005. He was 75.

It was after decades of pursuing an education and entering a profession in which he was essentially an anomaly that Guthrie sought to level the academic playing field by writing "Even the Rat Was White: A Historical View of Psychology." Published in 1976, the work is "a testament to this struggle" for equal education and recognition. His personal observation

of the omission of the contributions of black psychologists from mainstream university curricula inspired him to set the record straight (Eileen M. O'Connor, www.apa.org/monitor/novo1/american.html).

One of our committee members, Dr. Carmelo Isales, experienced first-hand that Dr. Guthrie was a man of creating optimism through his actions as well as his insight as he shared his work. His courage to speak opened the door for other ethnic groups to be recognized and valued for their differences.

We honor Dr. Robert V. Guthrie because his work stands out as a unifying moment in history. His views have brought attention in recognizing the value of uniting culture, country, and world to fo-

cus on the similarities of differences, rather than devaluing the differences. For his work, the



American Psychological Association preserves Dr. Robert V. Guthrie's research on their website.



Further Reading: Resources and events at the archives of American Psychology are detailed at: <http://www.uakron.edu/ahap/>.

MHSA Update

By Janine Moore, Prevention and Early Intervention

The MHSA Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) unit has been working to complete the final planning stages for the PEI plan. The PEI Steering Committee met for 3 ½ days in January and February to develop the final recommendations in developing fundable PEI projects.

The next steps include final decision making regarding the PEI plan. When the plan is completed it will be posted for a 30 day public comment period during which the community will be invited to give feedback and suggestions. Following the public comment period the Mental Health Board will host a Public Hearing during which the community will be invited to offer suggestions in person. Once the public comments are reviewed and incorporated, as appropriate, the plan will then be submitted to the State for approval.

By Tina Cho, Workforce, Education and Training, Staff Development Officer

For some time now representatives of Managers, Supervisors and staff have met in committees and as a Task Force to discuss the need to implement a much more integrated service approach to those consumers with co-occurring substance abuse and mental health disorders (COD). Following extensive work by the Task Force, the Department implemented a specific treatment curriculum for all of its adult



Sue Strickland, Riverside African American Historical Society, Inc., guest speaker at the Cultural Competency, Black History Celebration.

COD groups.

The curriculum and training are based on current evidence based practices and on the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMSHA) Integrated Dual Disorders Treatment Toolkit. The third round of trainings on topics considered essential to effective COD treatment and the training on the curriculum itself was completed on March 3, 2009. A certificate was provided to the following staff who completed the training series:

Kimberly Archibek, Keith Boone, Samuel Campbell, Stephenie Drake, Albert Fam, Grace Flores, Edwin Franasiak, Homer Hamilton, William Harris, Marylou Imfeld, Maria Iniguez, Angela Kessler, Don Kirtland, Adriana Lilly, Cindy Long, Samuel Lopez, Shannon McClerry-Hooper, Rodney Miker, Lisa Morris, Praise Okoh, Eyrn Parks, Bernadette Regan, Socorro Sanchez, Yolanda Scurlock, and Clyde Stewart.

Congratulations on your accomplishment!

Learning Curve

"Education is the ability to listen to almost anything without losing your temper or your self-confidence.

~ Robert Frost

"All human interactions are opportunities either to learn or to teach.

~ M. Scott Peck

By David Schoelen, Workforce Education and Training Coordinator, MHSS

Licensed Mental Health Services Provider Education Program and Mental Health Loan Assumption

As a result of the Mental Health Services Act, professional staff who are committed to public mental health service are eligible for awards designed to pay down educational loans! These repayment programs, the Licensed Mental Health Services Provider Education Program and the Mental Health Loan Assumption Program, were created to help our licensed and licensed-waivered staff repay their educational loans in exchange for continued public service

The Mental Health Loan Assumption program offers \$10,000 for 1 year of service. You can re-apply for this program each year for up to 6 years of service, for a total of

\$60,000 toward your educational loan(s).

The Licensed Mental Health Services Provider Program offers \$15,000 for 2 years of service. You can re-apply for this program after your 2 years of service is complete, for 2 more years of service for a maximum of \$30,000 toward your educational loan(s).

There is one application for both programs. The Spring application deadline was MARCH 24, 2009, but applications for the FALL 2009 cycle CAN still be received. Qualified Riverside County employees are eligible for a total of approximately 20 awards. PLEASE APPLY even if you have been denied a past award. If Riverside County does not achieve an adequate number of award recipients, we risk losing the number of eligible awards for future application cycles.

Judy Melson from Health Professions Education Foundation is willing to assist anyone who needs help filling out the applica-

tion, (916) 326-3640.

Also, if you have applied for these programs before and you were denied, please call Judy and she will review your application with you to help you reapply.

A review of past Riverside applications indicates that common clerical errors were the primary reason for denial. Please make sure to check and re-check your application before mailing. Common errors included missing signatures OR incomplete reference letters. These are minor mistakes that eligible applicants are making resulting in the denial of their applications.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact Jennifer Lantry with Workforce Education and Training at (951) 358-5864.

For additional information, please review the following website: <http://www.oshpd.ca.gov/HPEF/LMHSPRLP.html>

Central Children's Services/Parent Support & Training

By Erllys Daily

During the months of December and January three collaborative trainings were offered to combined groups of Education and Children's Mental Health personnel. These trainings reviewed the legal and collaborative relationship that Education and Mental Health have in providing free and appropriate education and mental health services to minors who qualify, having serious mental health issues and needing

Mental Health services in order to benefit from their education.

These trainings were offered separately to personnel from the three geographic regions of Riverside County. The training included review of the legal requirements as well as the process for identification, referral and provision of education related mental health services to students. It also served to improve communication and team building. These trainings fostered positive relationships.

Parent Support & Training

By Valai Brown

My co-workers and I attended a portion of the California Mental Health Planning Council Meeting held in Ontario on January 14th, 15th, and 16th. I choose to visit the Children & Youth Subcommittee meeting as I am most interested in *children's mental health issues*. As a guest, it was interesting to observe the committee's ideas and their genuine interest in the agenda items. I was especially impressed with the discussion regarding the Emily Q. Special Master's Report.

I learned that Therapeutic Behavioral Services (TBS) was formed from a 2001 Federal court judgment. What was even more impressive was the sincere passion flowing from the members who had honestly expressed their concerns about this service not being utilized to its capacity and what steps needed to be taken to offer these services to more youth. This was truly an experience that I will always remember. My two sons were able to receive TBS in Riverside County and I whole heartedly agree that this service is extremely beneficial and should be offered to more children.

Parent Support

(Continued)

By Luz Negrón

During the month of February, Parent Support be participated in two very important community events. One of them was the 30th Annual Black History Parade in Riverside which celebrates the accomplishments of the African American community. Parent Support had a resource table at this event as well at Fiesta Educativa, which is a Spanish speaking conference for parents and family members of children with disabilities. Riverside County Office of Education was one of the sponsors along with the Department of Mental Health. The attendance for this conference was about 200 participants.



Western Region Children's

By Paul Thompson / Darlene Bell

ISF Wraparound hosted our annual Holiday Party on 12/11/08 at John's Incredible Pizza in Riverside. The event was a great success with over 60 family members in attendance. Families enjoyed the buffet dinner and desserts. Santa Claus stopped by to visit and posed for pictures with kids and families. The pictures were put in frames which the children or parents decorated with holiday stickers.

After dinner, families participated in fun family time with activities such as mini bowling, bumper car rides, and various arcade games. All age groups, including teens, were enthusiastic about playing the games and having a good time. Thank you to all the families who came together to celebrate the holiday season!

MDFT Western Region Teams were visited by the MDFT Trainers from Miami on Thursday, January 29th. The day consisted of viewing a taped therapy session and live supervision with two families involved in MDFT. This was an important day for both Regional Teams as we near the end of our training and approach certification in the model. The day was a great success for all participants!

Moreno Valley Children's Interagency Program and Incredible Kids had an overwhelming turnout for their client Holiday Party on December 10, 2008. To reduce costs the party was held at the clinic, with games, crafts, and pictures with Santa taking place indoors, and families being seated in the courtyard for chicken, potato salad and candied apples. Clinic staff really pulled it together and the entire event went incredibly smoothly.

Staff were expecting approximately 110 guests, based on previous years, but had over 190 people sign in, necessitating a last minute run to pick up more food! The Chick-Fil-A cow greeted guests in the lobby dressed in a Santa coat and hat and was a great hit with the kids.

Moreno Valley Children's Interagency Program is sorry to announce that Tom Ramsey, who played the role of official CHIPS Santa Claus for several years, passed away suddenly on January 20, 2009. Clinic staff is collecting donations to go to one of his favorite projects – the local Explorer troop – and will hang a plaque in the clinic hallway in his memory.

Compliance

By Mary Stetkevich

The Notice of Privacy Practices (NPP) is to be issued to new clients upon intake, and also re-issued to all established clients as they are seen for the first time this calendar year. The NPP is a 4-page document that the client is to keep, and they are to sign the 1-page acknowledgment form indicating that they received the NPP. The acknowledgment is to be filed in the client's chart. The NPP and acknowledgment form is available in English and in Spanish. There have been no changes to the NPP since its implementation in 2003. When re-issuing the NPP, explain to the client that it is the same NPP that they received in the past, but since it's a new year, we are re-issuing it to all active clients. Ask the client to sign the acknowledgment

and place it in the chart, on top of any previous acknowledgment forms they may have signed in the past. If the client refuses to sign, indicate such, and have two (2) staff people sign and place in the chart

Famous People and Mental Illnesses

Judy Collins, singer and songwriter, has written a book titled "*Sanity and Grace: a Journey of Suicide, and Strength*". The book chronicles her journey as a survivor of depression after the suicide of her 33-year old son in 1992. She states that her own spiritual life and practice have been a strength for her as she battles with her illness.

Quick Takes

Sometimes I think the surest sign that intelligent life exists elsewhere in the universe is that none of it has tried to contact us.

~Bill Watterson

Life would be infinitely happier if we could only be born at the age of 80 and gradually approach 18.

~Mark Twain

I'd rather be a failure at something I love than a success at something I hate.

~George Burns

Reassignment Opportunities

The Department of Mental Health lists Reassignment Opportunities on the web-site. Each request for posting must contain the following information; UNIT; TITLE; LOCATION, CONTACT NAME AND CONTACT NUMBER. Opportunities are posted for two weeks to give any and all employees of the same classification an opportunity to apply. Visit the site often for updated postings at:

<http://mentalhealth.co.riverside.ca.us/opencms/english/reassignment>.

Current Postings Include:

UNIT: Western Region ISF

TITLE: BHS II

LOCATION: Riverside

CONTACT NAME: Angela Ingrisan

CONTACT PHONE #: (951) 341-8830

EXPIRATION DATE: April 13, 2009

UNIT: Western Region Wraparound

TITLE: BHS II

LOCATION: Riverside

CONTACT NAME: Ester McCoy

CONTACT PHONE: (951) 358-4850

EXPIRATION DATE: April 13, 2009

UNIT: Outpatient Quality Improvement
TITLE: CT II (2 Positions Available)
LOCATION: Riverside
CONTACT NAME: Maureen Dobson
CONTACT PHONE #: (951) 358-7711
EXPIRATION DATE: April 9, 2009

UNIT: Desert Region
TITLE: BHS II
LOCATION: Indio
CONTACT NAME: Suzanne Garrison
CONTACT PHONE #: (760) 863-8585
EXPIRATION DATE: April 9, 2009

UNIT: Desert Region
TITLE: Office Assistant II
LOCATION: Indio

CONTACT NAME: Madeline Rucobo
CONTACT PHONE #: (760) 863-8592
EXPIRATION DATE: April 9, 2009

UNIT: Patients Accounts
TITLE: Office Assistant II
LOCATION: Riverside
CONTACT NAME: Nichol Edwards
CONTACT PHONE #: (951) 358-6900
EXPIRATION DATE: April 9, 2009

Mental Health Court Receives Recognition

By Mike Malone, Detention Services Manager

Under the "Promising Project Recognition" category, the Riverside County Mental Health Court (Western Riverside County & Desert Regions) has been selected as a 2009 recipient of a Council on Mentally Ill Offenders (COMIO) Promising Project Recognition Certificate.

This reflects the hard work and dedication to this service our staff have provided the past two years. During this time, we have expanded Mental Health Court from one staff in the Riverside Court to 16 staff serving the three Courts throughout our County.

Our next goal will be to work towards recognition as a "Best Practice" in California.

Board of Supervisors Proclaim March as Social Worker Recognition Month

On Tuesday, March 17, 2009, the Riverside County Board of Supervisors proclaimed *March 2009 Social Worker Recognition Month*. In Riverside County, there are over 879 Social Workers providing vital services to residents. Social Workers help people in all stages of life, from children to the elderly. By proclaiming March 2009 to be Social Worker Recognition Month, the Board of Supervisors continues a tradition and commitment to support the extraordinary efforts of social workers serving the communities in our county. The State of California and the Federal Government also recognize the social work profession in the month of March.

The proclamation presented is as follows:

Whereas the theme of Social Worker Recognition Month 2009 is “Building on Strengths for a Better Future” and

Whereas social workers are committed to service in every facet of community life in schools, hospitals, mental health clinics, senior centers, elected office, private practices, prisons, military, corporations, and in numerous public and private agencies that serve individuals and families in need, and

Whereas social workers’ efforts reflect a commitment to excellence and protection by advocating for others as they foster the values which demonstrate empathy, patience, regard for the quality of life of all members of our community; and through education and experience guide individuals, families and communities through complex issues for choices, and

Whereas social workers connect individuals, families, and communities with available resources and

Whereas social workers are dedicated to improving the society in which we live, and

Whereas social workers are positive and compassionate professionals, and

Whereas social workers are advocates in ensuring access for all people to the same rights, protections, and opportunities, and

Whereas social workers are building on strengths for a better future every day by understanding and utilizing the strengths of children, guiding individuals and families they serve; thereby empowering people to help themselves, and

Whereas social workers have been the driving force behind important social movements in the United States and abroad;

NOW, THEREFORE, THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA, in recognition of professional Social Workers and their commitment and dedication to individuals, families and communities through service delivery, research and education, does hereby proclaim the month of March 2009 as **SOCIAL WORKER RECOGNITION MONTH** and call upon the citizens of Riverside County to join in celebration and support of social workers and the social work profession.



Retirement Fever Strike's Mental Health

When the Board of Supervisors authorized the “Two Year Golden Handshake” or “Early Retirement Incentive Program”, who would have thought we would spend nearly three weeks going to retirement party’s. Below is the list of recent retiree’s, as of March 30th ,from the Department of Mental Health:

Sandra Aase, Gary Abrams, Katherine Bainbridge, Verginia Basallo, Reneé Becker, Camille Callahan, Elizabeth Casey, Frances Charles, Linda Charter, Mekkia de Sanchez-Davis, Ali Dia, Sandra Espejo, Brenda Toellner, Theresa Galvez, Michael Grace, Rose Gritton, Genevieve Gutierrez, Arturo Herrera, Yolanda Herrera, Terri Hughes, Elaine Hurst, Geraldine Imfeld, Charlesetta Johnson, Jean Johnson, Ruth Joseph-Pike, Cristy Kowalewski, Linda Lowe, Deniece Marshall, Rosalind Monahan, Virginia Norwood, Cheryl O’Connor, Delores Oropeza, Catherine Penney, Gordon Petersen, Karen Petri, Kathleen Quan, Larry Rodriguez, Ellie Russell, Linda Scott, Sally Smigin, Germaine C. Smith, Robin Tapanes, Sharon Tice, Joseph Valentinetti, Robert van Dyke, John Weible, John Wells, Rozelle Williams, Brian Woolley

Congratulations to all of you for your successful commitment to the Riverside County Department of Mental Health



2009 Continuing Education Training

“SAVE THE DATE”

SAVE THE DATE TOPIC: Law and Ethics—6.0 hours Continuing Education Credit
 DATE: Tuesday, July 28, 2009
 LOCATION: Flood Control
 1995 Market Street
 Riverside, CA 92501
 INSTRUCTOR: Craig Jackson, J.D., M.S.W.
 BBS and BOP requirements—CE's for Psychologists, LCSW, LMFT's, RN's, and CAADAC
 FOR INFORMATION: Jennifer Landry, OAIll Workforce, Education and Training
 951-358-5864

SAVE THE DATE TOPIC: Clinical Supervision - 5.5 hours Continuing Education Credit
 DATE: Tuesday, August 4, 2009
 Wednesday, August 5, 2009
 LOCATION: DPSS Administration—Dodge Room
 4060 County Circle Drive
 Riverside, CA 92503
 INSTRUCTOR: Greg Merrill, M.S.W., L.C.S.W.
 BBS and BOP requirements — CE's for Psychologists, LCSW, LMFT's, RN's, and CAADAC
 FOR INFORMATION: Jennifer Landry, OAIll Workforce, Education and Training
 951-358-5864

Please check your licensing board website for details about your continuing education requirements (e.g., www.bbs.ca.gov and/or www.psychboard.ca.gov and/or www.rn.ca.gov).

Please watch for e-mail notices with attached continuing education credit brochures and registration forms or hard copies mailed to contract providers approximately 30 calendar days prior to the “SAVE THE DATE.” If you wish to be added to the e-mail distribution list, please send your request to MENTAL-HEALTH SUPPORT (for employees) or to lantry_j@co.riverside.ca.us (for contract providers).

All participants to FAX their registration forms to **Jennifer Lantry** at 951-358-4723 (office number 951-358-5864). **Please submit your Continuing Education payment to Anthony Aguilar, RCDMH Revenue Unit, Stop #3800, or P.O. Box 7549, Riverside, CA 92513. Please make checks payable to: RCDMH**

Please e-mail Tina Cho at tcho@co.riverside.ca.us with any feedback, training requests and/or recommendations for future department continuing education workshops/conferences or call 951-358-5389. Comments regarding past trainings are to be included within the evaluation forms provided during each training session.

The DOMH requires the continuing awareness of and adherence to the laws, regulations and policies in effect for Riverside County and the State of California, including but not limited to HIPAA, the California Welfare and Institution Code 5328, and the American Psychological Association policies and principles (www.apa.org).

No partial credit is permitted.