

THE INSIDER

*VOICES OF CALIFORNIA'S CIVIL DETAINEES,
COALINGA STATE HOSPITAL.*

JANUARY 2011

Department of Mental Health

Director Stephen Mayberg

RETIRES!!!

William Hester, Editor

After many years at the reigns of the Department of Mental Health for the State of California, Director Stephen Mayberg retired from his position effective December 31, 2010 according to the L.A. Times Extra section.

This ends an almost two decade reign of terror in which Director Mayberg ignored the reality of his department's handling of multiple commitments with widely varying needs.

Director Mayberg instead attempted to create a "one-size-fits-all" system in which all members of all commitments would be treated the same as the most restricted patients in his department.

Hopefully, the changing of the guard will result in a more progressive director being appointed who will understand that all of us have differing rights. Who knows, maybe we'll even get lucky enough to see things done right.

I know, dream on. Hope for the best, expect the worst.

IN THE SPIRIT OF THE SEASON

William Hester, Editor

For many people, the holidays are a time of festive interactions and sharing of gifts. Unfortunately, for people in institutions, this can also be a time of isolation and grief. This is even more true for the people on MA2 (Medical Unit) who in many case can't even leave the unit to socialize with others.

In the spirit of giving that is the trademark of the holiday season, people rose to the challenge of making sure that these individuals were not forgotten this past holiday.

The Insider would like to thank David Green for taking the initiative and putting together a donation request to gather gifts for our companions on MA2. He spent many hours working on this to make sure that there would be gifts given to those who can't come out to be with their friends. Together with donation from his own pocket, he gathered items from both staff and patients here to help out.

THE RESULT: On the Thursday before Christmas, David and his assistants delivered the gifts (large bags of assorted items) to the residents of MA2. Reports of teary eyes and huge smiles abounded. The gift of giving was very well received.

GOOD JOB GUYS! *The Insider* offers *special thanks* to David Green for all his efforts on behalf of our companions on MA-2.

The View from the Editor's Seat



Guidelines for Publication

All submissions to *The Insider* are subject to editing for proper grammar, punctuation, length, language, and clarity. They may not include hate-speech, inciting or inflammatory language, or unnecessary profanity. Any submissions may be returned to the individual author for revision or rejected outright.

The Insider is produced at Coalinga State Hospital, in Coalinga, California. Material published in this electronic paper is written, edited, and published entirely by hospital residents.

The ideas and opinions expressed herein do not reflect the opinions of the hospital's staff or its administration, unless otherwise noted.

The Insider is dedicated to fair, unbiased and impartial reporting of information, current events, and news that is of interest to civil detainees and others who are interested in finding out about the real people here. Any questions and correspondence can be submitted by mail to:

William Hester
 CO# 532-2 / Unit 4
 P.O. Box 5003
 Coalinga, CA 93210

Greetings! Welcome to the year 2011.

I hope that everyone has enjoyed their holidays and are now ready to get back to the business of daily life.

This issue precedes the intended implementation of Title 9, Section 4350 on the 24th of this month.

I don't know at this time whether or not there will be another issue of *The Insider*. If the Department of Mental Health does in fact ignore our rights as citizens in favor of their rather vague definition of security, I will not have a computer next month with which to produce the paper. If instead, either the courts step in and hold them up while it is being challenged or if DMH itself decides to hold off, then next month there will be more for you to read.

Let's see. Well this new year will see many changes in my life and day to day activities. I will now be working more directly for the patient population as one of the CDAC spokesmen. I am going to resume my efforts as a Medicine Wheel mentor. I am continuing to work on *The Insider*. And I will be trying to continue growing as a person.

On this last note, I would like to extend my gratitude to my many friends, who knowing they risked irritating me, decided to have a surprise party for my birthday in December. I don't have many good memories related to my birthday growing up, and my way of dealing with it as an adult has been to ignore it and request that people around me respect my wish that it not be made an issue of.

For those of you who don't know anyone with a birthday between Christmas and New Year's Day, it sucks! Unless you live in a very loving family, there is a tendency among your relatives to give you one gift for both Christmas and your birthday. I myself don't really think much of this anymore, however, as a kid I was really put out when I got one gift for the holiday and birthday and one month later my brother got separate gifts for his birthday.

Getting back to my friends, even though they knew I might get upset, they decided it was for the best to surprise me with a party. So, after trying to sneak around and put it together, I almost blew it for them by arriving early to the Grand Meeting Room. Using a sneakiness that I underestimated, they managed to put everything together right under my nose. Needless to say, I was surprised when the bowl with ice cream, cake, and chocolate (way too much chocolate) was placed in front of me. My first reaction was to be a little frustrated with them, but after thinking about all I've learned in the Medicine Wheel and the changes I've made in my life, I accepted the party for what it was.

It was a gift to me from a group of people who have become the family I no longer have. And as one of my friends reminded me (and I myself have told others), now is the time to make new memories to replace all of the old ones. Go forward from today with better memories than the ones you carried into it.

So, as I conclude this session, I want to first thank all of my friends who have shown me that living in the now is much better than living in the past. Next, I want to thank all of you who have shown an interest in *The Insider* and the work we have done on it. I would also like to thank all the people who have decided that I can represent them for the next year (I'll try not to disappoint).

Most of all, I want to extend to all who read this a wish that you will learn the lesson that my friends have taught me.

We all carry bad memories from things that have happened in the past (either through our actions or those of others). If you are ever going to know peace in your life, you need to learn to let the past be the past and build a new life and new memories to live with. I wish everyone a Happy New Year and offer my prayers that 2011 will be a better year for all.

Be well and look out for each other.

P.S. Gotta go. I need more coffee.

William Hester, Editor

	<p>Michael St.Martin Friends and Family of California Civil Detainees P.O. Box 5003 Coalinga, CA 93210-5003</p>	<p>Phone Numbers: 559-935-3814 559-934-1634 559-934-1946 559-934-1471</p>
	<p>Michaelst.martin@hotmail.com</p>	<p>Message Number: 206-376-1633</p>

Help us form a nationwide network to share information between civil detainees in all jurisdictions.

Hi:

My name is Michael St.Martin, and I am currently incarcerated at Coalinga State Hospital under the California "Sexual Violent Predator Act." I am writing to offer you my help and to request your's.

As I am sure you are aware, the California SVP program is the largest in the country; locking up hundreds of men for what amounts to a lifetime commitment.

Along with our supporters, both in the Hospital and "on the streets," we are attempting to organize a system of communication, and information-sharing, between the many different states' sexual predator programs.

We have made a good start here in California, but now we want to offer support to, and receive input from, the other programs nation-wide. At this point, let me be very clear: we are NOT soliciting funds or contributions of any kind from you. We have already established a network of supporters who are willing to assist in financing this goal. All we ask from you is you input, advice, opinions, and suggestions.

Our first goal is to establish a list of contacts for each of the 20 other SVP programs across the country. These would be the "go to" people when we are looking to disseminate information or organize the SVP population, which is our only true resource and support system. If we can coordinate all the separate state programs, we will have an opportunity for our voices to be heard.

With this goal in mind, let me detail the steps we have taken, and some of what we have planned for the future. As I mentioned above (*and on the 2nd page following*), our website is up and running. Our websites are presently geared to California, but we are hoping to post information from other states – if and when that information becomes available from you and others. Additionally, we have established a news letter (*The Insider*) which offers articles relevant to the SVP program. Our goal is to exchange these types of news letters with all the other SVP programs and place them on our website in order to establish a nation-wide support network. We may add additional websites in the future if the need arises.

We have other long range plans for the future, but this list is what we hope to accomplish with your help in the near future.

- ◇ Produce a documentary on the Civil Commitment laws in all 50 states.
- ◇ Produce a documentary on the SVP programs in all 20 states, including the Federal SVP program.
- ◇ Work with the press to expose what is going on inside all of the SVP programs throughout the country.
- ◇ Develop a network for sharing information.
- ◇ Establish a bulletin board for family and friends to communicate with each other.

Please feel free to pass this letter around to others, either in your facility or other SVP programs. At this time, we do not have contacts in every SVP program and welcome other contacts you may be able to provide.

I look forward to receiving replies from you or someone at your facility.

To date, we have established several Websites:

www.defenseforsvp.com

This site offers information regarding the SVP program, legal information, psychological studies and reports, and many other types of help and support for the SVP community.

www.voicesofthegulag.com

This site is what is going on inside of Coalinga State Hospital.

www.sexgulag.com

This site is a collection of news articles of interest to sex-offenders throughout the world.

www.dmhfollies.com

This site is dedicated to the documentary we are trying to produce.

www.coalingasources.com

This site is to be our future bulletin board for family and friends to communicate with each other.

If you would like to have items posted on any of our websites, please write or call me for instructions on how to proceed.

Ongoing Problems and Concern with Laundry

For the past several years, various advisory councils have addressed laundry concerns with the administration of this facility. A number of responses have been provided and the last comment by this administration was, “*Laundry quality issues are being continually scrutinized by CSH staff and have been elevated to PIA management for monitoring as well.*” This was information provided in updates from the meeting of May 12, 2010. As of this date, there has been little change to the entire process and we are presenting this issue again for immediate administrative review.

As late as October 27, 2010 the CDAC had received complaints from *every* unit within the facility regarding some concern with laundry. Most complaints ranged from not having towels, socks, and underwear to receiving soiled laundry mixed with clean. In a number of instances, units have reported that they have gone “*days*” without items even though the staff is submitting orders via the internal process. The number of recent unit-wide searches, would have eliminated or addressed these shortages, if individuals were hoarding laundry.

In previous dialogs with administrators, we have been lead to believe that the facility has “sufficient” clothing to meet the needs of individuals of CSH regardless of the CDCR facilities where our laundry is processed being placed on lockdown.

In a previous submission, we advised this administration that there has been no improvement to the quality of the laundry received on each unit and noted that these problems have been ongoing for three (3) years. We asked for a workgroup to identify the problems and implement a better quality control procedure including an overall corrective plan of action. Our requests for meetings even with department heads have gone largely ignored.

The Triad, on behalf of the entire population of CSH, is requesting that administration review the current supply levels of all clothing and linen and supplement, as necessary, clothing and bedding sufficient to meet the needs of CSH residents. The Triad, likewise, is (again) requesting a workgroup to identify the problems and implement a better quality control procedure including an overall corrective plan of action concerning laundry services that are rendered by Prison Industry Authority (PIA).

Forensic vs. Clinical Treatment (The Reality of SVP Detention)

Society throws around the word predator; prompted by the news media. Those living in fear of someone jumping from a tree to attack their wife or snatching their child (causing an Amber Alert) on their way home from school, created a law to protect *themselves*. They do not understand that most sexual offenses are committed by someone they know.

On the other hand, almost everyone here “thinks” the Sexually Violent Predator laws are unfair, wrong, illegal and immoral.

This law was created for those *few* individuals who are unable to control their behavior.

Yet, on a regular basis, individuals are returned to prison for possession of child pornography or stalking/assaultive behavior toward residents and/or staff. Most of these individuals are unable to control their conduct. On the one hand it is illegal (not to mention unethical) to send them back to prison based upon an uncontrollable mental disorder which they continue to display. These are sick persons who belong in a hospital, a place of treatment. Prisons are for criminal behavior-not sick record indicated there is no current mental disorder (not in remission, partial remission or merely by history) would be released to return to their families.

Does your treatment record reflect a current mental disorder; not based solely on history rather than facts? Does your Wellness & Recovery Report indicate you are free from any assaultive, sexually preoccupied behavior?

If you want to know if you are truly an S.V.P., take a look around. Those who the law was created for are here, too. (*Those who prey on the weak, defenseless and elderly*)

2972 ISSUES

By Derek M. Luers

The last time we had a search done here on Unit #27 the Department of Police Services (DPS) Officers went through all the staff offices, taking things like CD's that just had copies of The Insider which is the voice for the individuals that live here at CSH and they are doing everything they can to make sure that no staff have any copies of The Insider newspaper. This writer was also shown where they broke a key off into the desk lock and how they bent another key to open the same lock. It is a shame that the Ivory Tower and DPS Officers do not trust the staff that work in the offices on the units. It's too bad that they need to have them searched when staff did not come to work that day and that they needed to do this behind staff's back. I say where is the trust that you have that the person you work for will not search your office when you are out for training that week.

The Ivory Tower needs to come to the table, be willing to take part in The Insider newspaper because the staff that work here at CSH want to read it and there is no way that you will be able to stop staff from reading our newspaper. Pam Ahlin, the Executive Director of Coalinga State Hospital, was invited to take part in The Insider and Pam said no. I think it is a good bet that she is behind the missing CD's that had a copy of the newspaper on them, but this writer can not prove it. This writer would like to invite Pam Ahlin to at least take the time to read The Insider and not to be afraid of what is being written and put into The Insider (at no cost to her or the State) or does Pam Ahlin have something to be afraid of and if so, what is she hiding from.

This writer will not bother to ask her because he believes that she will only say "no," the second time as well. This writer believes in The Insider, for those who work to help put The Insider together and most of all I believe that without the writers most of all, there wouldn't be The Insider.

I just want to Thank everyone who has set time aside to make sure that The Insider gets down and out to the people that want to read it without delay.

"Thanks again for everything."

SHARED CATALOGS AND OPPORTUNITIES

By Derek M. Luers

Why must there be a Gold Country Mall Catalog and a Satellite Mall Course Catalog? Both are from January 3rd – March 25th 2011. To this writer it would make more sense to put all of the groups together in one catalog, this way you cut down the waste of paper and stop the separation between the 2972 and the 6600 population. Staff as a whole on Units 25, 26, 27 & 28 need to start teaching our guys how to function (to get up on their own, to take a shower, change their clothes, take their medication and make their bed's and clean their rooms or dorm without being told to so by the L.O.C.S.).

Yes this writer understands that some of the guys on these units will be coming back to a place like this, but give them a hand up and teach them how to stay out and show them that there is a better life outside of the hospital walls. I would like to see everyone make it, but I know that is too high of a goal to go after. "If you give a man a fish, he will eat for a day and if you teach a man to fish you will feed him for a life time." This is the approach in treatment that should be taught to the 2972s, as well as the 6600 population.

Both commitments can learn a lot from each other and from this learning we will find out the difference between us is a commitment code, but besides that we are the same. Yes this writer knows of the entitlement issues and that some of the 6600 population think that they are better than us, but that is not so. We are here now and so you must live with it. This writer also knows that some of the 6600s used to be dual commitments; in other words, they have no room to say a thing against the 2972 population here.

Yes, I also know it is easier to hold on to the old instead of embracing the new and yes, I know that it scares a lot of individuals to let go of the old, because that is all they know.

The Venting Zone

SAFETY AND SECURITY

IN THE 2972 WORLD

By Derek M. Luers

They moved an individual back onto the unit, sometime this morning, that was moved because he's a Safety & Security risk to both staff and individuals alike. Then they moved him down to Unit #25. It is sad that program thinks that just moving around problem individuals will help to balance out Units 25 & 27. All they are doing is moving Safety & Security risk individuals around from unit to unit and failing to address the issues of the individual, which only makes things worse for staff and individuals alike.

Moving these individuals does not solve the problems; drugging them to the point they cannot walk is no answer either and somewhere there has got to be a better way to deal with these problem children. Staff just wants to sweep everything under the rug and hope that the Safety & Security issues disappear. This way they don't need to do "anything that might cause them to do some paperwork." This way they have less work to do and they turn a blind eye to the problems that are going on on Units 25 & 27 (that are in Program 8). Sweeping things under the rug only makes things worse because you (as Program 8) are not paying enough attention to the issues at hand and nothing gets done in a timely manner when it *is* dealt with.

These are just some of the issues that we 2972s share with the 6600 population and there are other issues as well, that the 6600 population have worked out and could help us work out. The funny thing is there is nothing different between the commitments except for the commitment code's 2972/6600 but both commitments have lower functioning individuals. But yet only a small part of the 6600 community wants to help us.

THE INSIDER EDITOR'S NOTE: The hospital staff is responsible for providing all of us with a safe and secure environment in which to live and receive treatment. It is sad to note that more often than not, staff allow those who engage in assaultive behaviors to have their way in order to pacify them. Unfortunately, the rest of us must live in danger because of this foolhardy policy.

For anyone who might notice, this is the same note that I included last month regarding a similar situation. It is disturbing to me how often this is happening in the hospital. As of this writing, there are two individuals who were force moved to accommodate "Administrative Reasons." Both were moved to units where they were either causing a problem or being threatened. Really makes you wonder what staff think they're doing.

SOT COMPUTER LAB

Robert Wright

As a mentally disordered offender, a 2972, we do have a computer lab where the SOT (Sex Offender Treatment) individuals can use to do our work. We are only allowed to do this during the quarter. We are not able to get access during break weeks.

I have to say that this is totally wrong and needs to be rectified, since we are doing the same work as the Phase individuals, but have less time to complete it due to our court dates. Our group is the equivalent of the Phase tutorial groups without the benefits.

The Venting Zone

We're Not in Prison

We hear it all the time. Everyday someone makes a comparison between California Department of Corrections & Rehabilitation and California Department of Mental Health Mass Confusion. We compare our experience in prison demanding OUR RIGHTS! Then we are reminded by staff: You're not in prison. I agree. This is not prison. It's worse!

I spent many years in the prison system. I witnessed lots of people die. Over the years; I saw court actions raise awareness of the poor prison health care system. I saw the judges intervene declaring if there is one unexplained death a month that's too many.

The California prison system has about 170,000 men incarcerated. Some are held out of state, others in county jails. Coalinga State Hospital has about 1,000 men residing within its walls. A mere 1/170 of the prison population yet we have more deaths per capita than the entire prison system.

We sit idle while our brothers are dying. IT IS OUTRAGEOUS! There is no excuse for the countless deaths in our population. I refuse to believe we have such a high rate of cancer, suicides, or death by natural causes. Something is terribly wrong!

It seems like every week a poster appears announcing the memorial service of another fallen comrade. Why? What is causing the senseless deaths of so many?

WE NEED TO SEND A MESSAGE TO ADMINISTRATION AND DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH. We need to unite and put an end to needless deaths. What can you do? Let me tell you:

-  Keep records of all information regarding any unexplained death.
 -  Write letters. Let people outside know about the possible abuse of unexplained deaths
 -  Tell your friends, family, attorneys, investigators, anyone who will listen. Tell them how many people are dropping dead all around us.
 -  Get up. When there is any memorial service we have to be there. We need to support our fallen and to remind administration we are aware of the needless deaths. What would administration think if 1,000 residents appeared at every memorial service?
 -  Let your spiritual advisor, priest, chaplain, minister know your concerns about unexplained deaths.
 -  We voted in our representatives. Let the Civil Detainee Advisory Committee know how you feel. Let them know you want them to ask hard questions and get hard answers. They can only raise the issues you want. Tell them you want to know why everyone is dying?
- Are we more concerned with our PSP, computers and comfort? All our toys won't help us if we are dead.

Remember these are the people who think ~~S~~ IS THE ANSWER!

S-N-I-P

THE INSIDER EDITOR'S NOTE: At this point I believe it is necessary to explain the reference made at the end of the previous article.

As part of one of my campaign speeches when I was running for CDAC Spokesmen, I got into a discussion of how the Department of Mental Health used to consider lobotomy, electroshock, and castration as viable mental health treatment techniques.

During the speech, I pointed out how far we have come in advocating for our right (gaining the use of electronics, improved packages, etc.). I also pointed out that DMH has been progressively stripping us of those rights (they call them privileges) that we fought so hard for.

I continued with the example that we have fought a long uphill battle and that we were beginning to lose ground in that fight. Then I said, "Remember, it is a downhill slide we're on if we don't stand up for our rights. If you want to know what happens if we lose, just look down and think SNIP!"

The Venting Zone

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS?

In August 2009, I arrived at Coalinga State Hospital. During the holiday season, I could not help but notice how warm the atmosphere was—Thanksgiving brought much more than turkey.

Shortly after Turkey Day, the mall was decorated. Wreaths and pole decorations soon appeared with a wonderful tree. Each unit showed its spirit of the holidays and unity within our community. After being in prison for so many years and spending the previous two Christmas in the county jail, this was---well almost like a family.

This year, I looked forward to the holiday season. Thanksgiving came and no tree or decorations in the mall. The Library became decorated, complete with a snowman, yet the mall lay bare. The units started their decorations yet the mall lay bare. Finally when the decorations arrived in the mall, they lacked any life. Wherever I went, it appeared that people were “just going through the motions.”

Trees arrived *late* for the units, but not without the Grinch. He came to spoil the spirit by telling us the trees had to be removed. After they were returned, The Grinch sent an e-mail to all staff telling them the trees must be removed on the Monday after Christmas; in addition to a lot of other restrictions: remove any decorations from doors, and not more than 10% of the wall space could be decorated. What happened to the tradition for trees to remain up until after New Years Day?

As I found myself in meditation, I recalled a time when I was the editor of a newsletter-a friend wrote an article for our Christmas edition. In it he also spoke of the way he felt a time when Christmas just didn't seem like Christmas and in fact he said, he wished he could just skip the holiday season altogether. His niece called him to wish him Merry Christmas and sing him a song she had just learned. The song, “It isn't Christmas until it begins in your heart.” I am humbled by the reminder it isn't the trees or the gifts. It isn't the lights or the decorations that make Christmas. It isn't what others are doing. It is what I am doing. It is what is inside of my heart. So, while I am walking in the mall, living in the unit and interacting with friends and family this holiday season; I am reminded of all I have to be thankful –the spirit of Christmas is actually doing very well-very well indeed—inside of each one of us; where Christmas belongs-in our hearts. I wish the warmest of Christmas Greetings to each one of you. May the New Year bring many more joys and happiness, freedom for many and love for all.

Lack of Activities on MDO Units

Robert Wright

There have been no activities on Units 25, 27, and 28. The guys there just like to sleep and in order to get them motivated to do anything, you need to have food right then and there. I hate to say that most of us on these units would like to have something to do activity-wise.

It is the writer's opinion that staff on these units just don't care whether or not we can care for ourselves when we get out.

Codes of Interest to All

Welfare & Institutions Code(s):

4304 Primary Purpose of State Hospital; duties of officers and employees

The primary purpose of a state hospital is the medical and nursing care of patients who are mentally disordered. The efforts and the direction of the officers and employees of each state hospital shall be directed to this end.

5326.5 Written Informed Consent; Definition; when given

(b) The physician may urge the proposed treatment as the best one, but may not use, in an effort to gain consent, any reward or threat, express or implied, nor any other form of inducement or coercion, including, but not limited to, placing the patient in a more restrictive setting, transfer of the patient to another facility, or loss of the patient's hospital privileges...No one shall be denied any benefit for refusing treatment.

5325.1 Persons with mental illness have the same rights guaranteed by the state and federal constitutions and laws (except as limited by law), including:

(a) Treatment should be provided in ways that are least restrictive of the personal liberty of the individual;

(b) right to privacy, dignity and humane care;

(c) right to be free from harm, abuse and neglect;

(d) right to prompt medical care and treatment

(This includes 14th Amendment Equal Protection and Due Process)

5326 regarding violations of section 5325.1

(d) any person or facility found to have knowingly violated the provisions of the first paragraph of section 5325.1 is subject to a civil penalty of \$50 per day for every day the violation is not corrected, starting on the day a Notice of Violation was issued (not to exceed \$1,000 for each violation). The local District Attorney or the Attorney general shall enforce this section in any court within jurisdiction.

Penal Code(s):

368 Dependent and Elder Adult Abuse

This section covers the unjustified infliction of mental suffering and the allowing of such on a dependent adult (which applies to every patient confined in a state hospital), and the false imprisonment of a dependent adult through violence, fraud, menace and deceit. False Imprisonment covers any unjustified interference with a person's liberty interests, and the allowance of such.

Business & Professions Code(s):

4521 Grounds for suspension or revocation (of psychiatric technician license)

The Board may suspend or revoke a license issued under this chapter for any of the following reasons:

Unprofessional conduct which includes, but is not limited to, any of the following:

Incompetence or gross negligence (related to psychiatric technician functions)

(d) Violating, or attempting to violate, directly or indirectly, or assisting in or abetting the violation of, or conspiring to violate any provision or terms of this chapter

The use of excessive force upon or the mistreatment or abuse of any patient

Aiding or assisting in a violation under Article 12, starting with section 2220

Failure to maintain confidentiality of a patient medical information, except as disclosure otherwise permitted or required by law

Failure to report the commission of any act prohibited in this section

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THINGS PCLS IS PROMOTING

A couple of issues are currently on the table for Clinical Administrative review prior to their approval:

- ☺ Legal Day – This has gone all the way to Sacramento and invitations to the legal community will soon be mailed off to prospective guests to come to attend this. The date is scheduled for Tuesday March 29, 2011 from 9:00am-2:00pm.
- ☺ The second CSH Christmas decorating contest – PCLS asked the Point Store to sponsor this again, and Ms. Leticia Martinez has very kindly agreed to do so. There will be prizes given to the top three Unit winners.
- ☺ A pizza fundraiser – being reviewed by Mall Services and Mr. Jim Clark
- ☺ The second annual Phase/Visitor Event set for the Valentine weekend next February – Dr. Will Gordon has most generously donated some of his very hectic and busy time to act as sponsor for this event.
- ☺ The introduction of several new vocational classes:
 - ☞ Basic Accounting (*Already submitted to the Curriculum Committee*)
 - ☞ PC Repair (*This packet is ready for submission this week*)
 - ☞ Small Business
- ☺ Soon, PCLS will begin a campaign to have 'Joint Venture' brought into here. Those of you familiar with this vocational training program by local small businesses will appreciate earning minimum wage and having job connections to the community.

COMMENTS/ISSUES WITHIN THE PCLS

Mr. William Rahar: Some facilitators are not having individual conferences with their group members.

Staff Response: Dr. Greer says the time any facilitator is allotted to spend with an individual is being amended taking into account substantial workloads that many facilitators are made to handle. While once-a-week interviews are ideal – reality of time-stressed needs and tasks must be taken into account. Individual's needing one-on-one time should work this out with their group facilitators primarily. PCLS would like to add that these kinds of issues are where one needs to attend the 'FORUM' to let CA know the problem exists.

Codes of Interest to All CONTINUED

(n) The commission of any act of dishonesty, when that action is substantially related to the duties and functions of the licensee

4521.2 Report of section 4521 violation by others

(a) If a psychiatric technician has knowledge that another person has committed any act prohibited by section 4521, the psychiatric technician shall report this information to the Board in writing and shall cooperate with the Board in furnishing information or assistance as may be required

(See Penal Code § 11161 which covers some of the reporting duties for 368 Dependent and Elder Adult Abuse and Welfare & Institutions Codes §§ 15630 and 15634(d) regarding the specific duty for psychiatric technicians to report abuse under related Penal Code § 368 and that there is criminal liability where the duty to report is not met; see also, **People v. Heitman**, 37 Cal.Rptr.2d 236, 240 (Cal. 1994), where Supreme Court ruled that negligent abuse under 368 applied to a "wide range of situations, including within its scope both active, assaultive conduct as well as passive forms of abuse")

DMH BUDGET AND STAFF ALLOCATIONS **CREATE PUBLIC SAFETY ISSUE**

Submitted by: Cory Hoch

The Governor's enacted budget for Fiscal Year 2010-11 indicates several large changes, especially for the California Department of Mental Health.

In this enacted budget information recently received by this writer, it portrays the allocated staffing positions of the various state hospitals that are under the jurisdiction of the DMH, including those of Coalinga State Hospital. For information specific to how many staff positions there are for each category of staffing currently, contact this writer at CSH.

The Department of Mental Health (generally) has a decrease of \$52 million from eliminating state funding for the AB 3632 mandates. This is related to the mandate suspension issue included in the General Government and Statewide issues section. Specifically, a decrease of \$30.4 million and 144.4 positions have resulted to the state hospitals related to an estimated decrease in 2010-11 caseload and the implementation of cost containment measures.

It has been indicated by the CSH administration that they have been forced by the Governor's office to cut back on operational costs, of which resulted in an approximate 25% slash of facility budgeted operational funding. *This slash is broad and sweeping and includes areas such as medical care and treatment services provided to the patient population.*



SAY WHAT?

William Hester

The holiday season has always been a time for the decorating of this rather drab environment we call home. One annual event that has carried over here from our time at Atascadero State Hospital is the placement of a Christmas Tree in the dayroom of each housing unit. Each unit would then decorate (as best they can with only paints and paper to work with) their unit's halls for the holidays.

ENTER THE GRINCH!!!

Strangely enough this year, after many years without any problems or issues related to the decorations or the trees, the Fire Marshall and/or the Fire Chief decided that this year (all of the sudden) the trees and decorations were a Fire Code violation. A week before Christmas the hospital was ordered to remove the trees from the units. After a number of calls made by the Administration, the trees were given a reprieve until the day after Christmas, with the further direction that real trees will never again be allowed at the holidays.

Whether or not there are codes that cover this, I don't know. What I do know is that it seems criminal that someone would choose to do something like that at the holidays in a place where it is hard enough to find some cheer.

For the sake of us all, I hope that the Fire Personnel will learn some of the empathy that everyone claims we lack!



Let' us remember all those who have fallen since the beginning of this law and pray that they now know the freedom that was denied them in life...

Robert Cloverdance; Carl Coleman; Jim Davis; Don Lockett; David Stansberry; Charles Rogers; Larry Goddard; Ed Samradi; Dean Danforth; Craig Rauwens; Wayne Graybeal; Donald Hughes; Lloyd Johnson; Robert Alperin; Tim McClanahan; Patrick Brim; Wayne Porter; Cash O'Doyd; Elmer Bock; Dave Goenick; Jose Vlahoitis; Corwin Weltey; Ross Washington; Richard Bishop; Alton Robinson; Robert Canfield; Jerry Sanchez; Gerald Brooks; James Aceves; Frank Valadao; Donovan Myrick; Paul Real; Paul Pedersen; Kenneth Edmonton; Jimmy Guthrie; James Rosenberg; Charles Grecien; David Harney; James Wallace; Jare Stevens; John Martinez; Delbert Smith; Dennis Boyer; Ruben Garcia; Wilbur Perryman; David Montgomery; William Laughlin; Richard Garcia; Francs Hansen; Steve Mendoza; Robert Berry; Ramon Malbrough; and Lee Gebhart (2972 Commitment).

What Do You Think?

I disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it.

Attributed to Voltaire, the words are in fact S. G. Tallentyre's summary of Voltaire's attitude towards Helvétius, following the ban on De l'Esprit in 'The Friends of Voltaire' (1907) p. 199