

# The ADVOCATE

*Mental Health Association in Michigan*



*Mental Health Matters Every Day*

## **A National State of Denial: Severe mental illness has been criminalized**

Dr. H. Richard Lamb, the noted researcher and author on mental health services and recently retired Director of Mental Health Policy and Law at the University of Southern California, spoke recently at the Mental Health Association in Michigan (MHAM) annual conference held on June 7, at the Livonia Radisson. The conference, entitled "And Justice for All," centered on the incarceration and detention of persons experiencing mental illness or emotional disorders.

In his speech, Dr. Lamb asserted that severe mental illness has been criminalized. While this was not a new conclusion, Dr. Lamb referenced the Thesis of Penrose from 1939 where he found an inverse relationship between prison and mental health populations. Dr. Lamb expounded on the Penrose theory that if one of the forms of confinement (prison vs. mental health facility) is reduced, the other will increase. Penrose theorized that where prison populations were extensive, mental health populations were small and vice versa. Thus, if there is room in prisons and a shortage of hospital beds, many persons with mental illness who come to the attention of the law enforcement might well be directed to the criminal justice system.

Dr. Lamb provided prison and mental institution data which clearly showed a trend and validity to the Penrose Thesis. In 1955, the number of persons in state institutions (expressed as number of beds) reached a peak of 559,000 out of a population of 165 million, or 339/100,000. In December of 2000, a shift was evident with 55,000 persons institutionalized in state hospitals out of a population of 275 million or 20/100,000 as an average across the United States.

During this period of major deinstitutionalization, the incarcerated population was also shifting. Between 1978 and 2000, the number of inmates in federal prisons, state prisons and local jails rose from 209 per 100,000 population to 708 per 100,000. In December of 2005, U.S. prisons and jails held 2,293,798 inmates.

The National Commission on Correctional Healthcare estimates the rates of severe mental illness (SMI) among

inmates to be between 10 and 19 percent in jails, from 18 to 20 percent in state prisons, and 16 to 21 percent in federal prisons. These figures add up to approximately 330,000 inmates with SMI (defined as schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, schizoaffective disorder and major depression with psychotic features). This figure is six times as many as the 55,000 currently in state hospitals. Adding the two figures together results in a population of 385,000 persons held in locked 24-hour involuntary structured settings. The conclusion from this data is that mental illness has not been deinstitutionalized.

Dr. Lamb further noted that individuals with SMI have their crises in the community and come to the attention of the police. The police are then confronted with a series of problems. There is a shortage of inpatient psychiatric beds. Treatment orders are difficult to obtain. Mental health facilities and programs are reluctant to admit aggressive persons. Police witness the premature discharge of severely disordered individuals whom the police believe are a danger. And many SMI persons wind up criminalized. In sum, the criminal justice system cannot refuse receiving individuals with mental illness.

Jails and prisons have been established, Dr. Lamb noted, to hand out punishment and protect society. The primary goals of jails and prisons are not to provide treatment and, as such, not suited to that task given their role to provide security.

Dr. Lamb noted that jail diversion is one response to the problem of incarcerating those suffering from mental illness. Resources would need to be redirected to the pre-booking and pre-trial stages. Clearly, the resources of the mental health system need to be greatly expanded with priority given to resources capable of treating persons who are or risk becoming offenders.

[We thank Kathleen Gross, Michigan Psychiatric Society, for her notes on Dr. Lamb's presentation.]

# AFSCME Council 25 Golf Outing for MHAM

The 13th annual golf outing of Michigan AFSCME Council 25, AFL-CIO to benefit MHAM was held on August 24 in Burton, with 92 golfers participating. Over \$50,000 was raised for the MHAM. This brings the thirteen-year event total of income generated for MHAM by our friends at AFSCME to \$430,000.

The MHAM family expresses its heartfelt gratitude to President Albert Garrett, Secretary-Treasurer Lawrence Roehrig and all AFSCME Council 25 members for their outstanding support of MHAM over the years. This support has been a critical point of assistance to our public policy, advocacy, educational and other work.

We also thank Lieutenant Governor John Cherry for serving as honorary chair of the outing; the many organizations and individuals who took out event sponsorships; all those who did supportive volunteer work; and MHAM Board golf team captains Ollie Cameron, Linda Hryhorczuk, Kathy Bloch, Joanne Sheldon, Phil Mastin and John Cotter.

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AFSCME Council 25 Secretary-Treasurer Lawrence Roehrig (far right) congratulates members of AFSCME AFL-CIO Local 1799 as winners of the golf tournament.

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MHAM Golf Chairman John Cotter (right) takes a moment for pictures before teeing off.



Friends of MHAM take a moment to rest after the round of golf.

Special Thanks

Brookwood Golf Club [www.brookwoodgolfclub.com](http://www.brookwoodgolfclub.com)



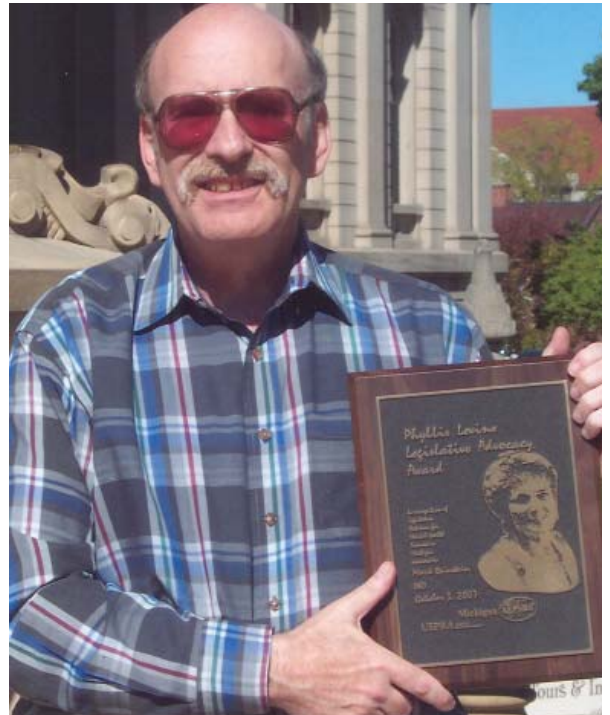
Golfers pose with sponsor signs before the start of the tournament.

# MICHIGAN IAPSRs POWER DAY

## October 3 - State Capitol



MHAM Board Member Michael Roaleen received a special recognition award. Michael, a social worker with Hope Network (Grand Rapids) was honored for his many years of leadership service within Michigan IAPSRs (International Association for Psycho-Social Rehabilitation Services). He has also been active in Kent County NAMI.



MHAM President & CEO Mark Reinstein received the Phyllis Levine Legislative Advocacy Award for his work on mental health parity and other policy issues. He is the first non-legislator ever to receive this award, which is annually conferred by the Michigan Chapter of IAPSRs.



# New Statewide Coalition on Mental Health & Justice Issues Open For Membership

On the following pages, we invite you to learn more about and consider joining Michigan Partners in Crisis (PIC). This is a new statewide coalition on mental health-and-justice issues. It is administered by MHAM and the Michigan Association for Children with Emotional Disorders (MACED), and it is patterned after similar PIC programs that exist in a handful of other states. These have been successful in achieving regulatory improvements and educating the public and policymakers about the major, unfortunate relationship between mental illness and justice system incarceration. That relationship is discussed some in this issue's story on Dr. Richard Lamb's Michigan presentation earlier this year. Readers are also referred to our October 2006 issue where we reprinted a 2006 report from the U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics on the prevalence of mental illness in jails and prisons.

The material that follows provides you with Michigan PIC's mission statement; its first-year goals and targeted initiatives; its operating procedures for the next two years; and the roster of individuals who constitute the Michigan PIC Advisory Board.

To join Michigan PIC (there is no charge) or ask questions about it, please e-mail [pictmham@aol.com](mailto:pictmham@aol.com), or contact any of the following individuals:

\*Greg Boyd, Project Coordinator, 517-488-8012

\*Susan McParland, MACED Executive Director, 248-433-2200

\*Mark Reinstein, MHAM President & CEO, 248-647-1711

## Michigan PIC Mission & 2007-08 Goals

### Mission

Michigan Partners in Crisis is dedicated to enhancing access to quality, clinically appropriate treatment and support services and settings for children and adults experiencing emotional disorders and mental illnesses.

### 2007-08 Goals

- To promote the well-being and safety of consumers, families and the public.
- To reduce over-reliance on the criminal and juvenile justice systems as responses to mental illness and emotional disorder, and to avoid inappropriate incarceration or detention of individuals experiencing such conditions.
- To advocate for the provision of treatment and support alternatives to incarceration.
- To advocate for appropriate resources for prevention, care, treatment and follow-up services to individuals experiencing emotional disorder and mental illness.

- To encourage legislative, financial and other public policies and mechanisms that stimulate earlier intervention, increased access and better service outcomes for persons experiencing emotional disorder and mental illness.
- To foster improved coordination and provider accountability among health and human service systems encountering persons experiencing emotional disorder and mental illness.

### **Michigan PIC 2007-08 Initiatives**

#### Public Policy Initiatives

- Governmental action to improve diversion service (pre-booking and other) and systems coordination in Michigan.
- Establishment within the Department of Community Health of all responsibility for the management, provision and application of appropriate standards of care for mental health diagnostic and treatment services (including psychological assessment of segregated inmates) in state prisons.
- Governmental action to suspend (rather than terminate) existing Medicaid status of an individual who becomes incarcerated or detained.

#### Education & Information Initiatives

- Inform the public and policymakers about existing problems (including stigma) and potential solutions.
- Stimulate independent analysis of the prevalence of mental illness and treatment levels for adults in state prisons and local jails.
- Stimulate independent analysis of juvenile justice system prevalence and treatment needs for emotional disorders, status offenses, abuse-and-neglect victims and delinquent minors.

### **Michigan PIC Advisory Board**

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Chief of Police, Lansing

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Sheriff, Kalamazoo County

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# The Advocate

A publication for members of the Mental Health Association in Michigan, Linda Hryhorczuk, M.D., Board Chair

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