



Eldridge Press

Message from the Executive Director

by James E. Rogers

Given spring, I am struck once again by the physical beauty of the Sonoma Developmental Center (Sonoma) campus and its surrounding communities. This is a time when everything seems to come to life all around us. The days are getting warmer, birds are actively building nests, and flowers are blooming. We look forward to many outdoor recreational activities—outings in the area, picnics at the farm, trips to Camp Via, dances, swimming, barbecues, softball games, and more.

As part of Sonoma's first annual Self-Advocacy Awareness Month, several wonderful new activities/events occurred during the month of March. I would like to thank everyone for the extraordinary effort.

Planning is already underway for a host of events that will be coming soon i.e., the annual fashion show, Cinco de Mayo festivities, the Opportunity Fair, the Sonoma Valley Footrace and Festival, and the July 4th celebration, etc. For information about the Opportunity Fair, see the article on page 4.



*Artwork by an anonymous client
(paint on wood slats)*

New Deputy Director

On January 28, 2009, Terri Delgadillo, Director of the Department of Developmental Services (DDS), announced that Patricia Flannery had been appointed Deputy Director of the Developmental Centers Division (DCD).

As Deputy Director, Patricia's has oversight of Sonoma Developmental Center (Sonoma), three other developmental centers, and two state-operated community facilities throughout California. Jim Rogers, Executive Director, stated, "Patricia has provided steadfast stewardship to the developmental center system as Acting Deputy Director in recent months. During these challenging times the system will be well served through the stable continuity of her strong leadership."

Patricia has over 28 years of experience in the DDS. She began her career at Agnews Developmental Center (Agnews) and later served in a multitude of roles within the developmental centers system, including working with San Andreas Regional Center in the development and implementation of a new Clinical Team program. She promoted to a Program Director of a large residential clinical program followed by assignments over the Central Medical Services Program, Closure Plan Coordinator for Agnews, and she later worked as the Executive Director of Life Service Alternatives providing oversight and management to the operation of its residential facilities in the community as part of the Agnews closure.



*Patricia Flannery
[Photo by Gloria Fong]*

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Have You Heard?

Patricia Flannery, continued from previous page

Patricia promoted to DDS Headquarters as Manager of the Regional Resource Development Project and Secure Treatment Program Branch and later to Assistant Deputy Director, Program Operations where she immediately became Acting Deputy Director for the DCD. Ms Delgadillo stated that Patricia was recently appointed to her role because throughout each of her assignments, she consistently demonstrated a commitment to improving the lives of people served as well as an expertise and knowledge in the clinical and administrative functions at the facility, community, and statewide level.

Sonoma Welcomes New Administrative Services Director

Karen Clark was appointed as the Administrative Services Director of Sonoma Developmental Center on March 1, 2009.

Karen has served the Department of Developmental Services for over 30 years in a variety of assignments—all at Agnews Developmental Center where she started as a Recreational Therapist. Over the years Karen has held a number of administrative and managerial positions and was the Administrative Services Director at Agnews Developmental Center in San Jose just prior to its closure.

Jim Rogers, Executive Director, has worked with Karen in the past and stated, “She is an exceptionally talented leader. Her experience as Administrative Services Director is an instant advantage in this challenging budgetary environment.”

Her responsibilities include supervision of key managers in charge of budget, physical plant, nutrition services, human resources, information technology, purchasing, and transportation.



Karen Clark

Note

If you would like to receive the *Eldridge Press* electronically, please e-mail your request to Karen.Litzenberg@sonoma.dds.ca.gov.

New Director for Program One

Carmen Tomek was selected as the Program Director for Program One at Sonoma Developmental Center (Sonoma).

In 1975, Carmen began her career in state service at Stockton Developmental Center as a pre-licensed Psychiatric Technician. One year later she received a degree in Psychiatric Technology from San Joaquin Delta College, and after taking her state board exams, she was appointed as a Psychiatric Technician. She later promoted to Senior Psychiatric Technician.

Carmen’s ability to lead others was recognized at Agnews Developmental Center, where she was promoted to the position of Residence Manager. Other leadership roles in Agnews’ management included Nursing Coordinator, Program Assistant, and Program Director.

Carmen has over 33 years of experience serving the people of California, and Sonoma is pleased to benefit from her knowledge and abilities. Now that she’s joined the management team at Sonoma, Carmen will have 24-hour responsibility to manage Program One, a residential program consisting of four residences for individuals with developmental disabilities.



Carmen Tomek

The Staff Library—Check It Out!

The Staff Library has re-opened after nearly a two-year hiatus. Ann Amman has been hired part-time as the Senior Librarian. The Staff Library is located in the Dunbar building (next to the Credit Union). The library is open Mondays 1:30–5:30 PM, Tuesdays and Thursdays 7:30 AM – noon, and Fridays 7:30 AM–3:30 PM.

The Staff Library currently has about 50 professional journals and a small collection of books. Ann can assist you in obtaining articles or answer your reference questions. She is currently catching up with two years of backlog, renewing journal subscriptions, familiarizing herself with polices and procedures and in medical librarianship, and participating in web trainings from the National Library of Medicine for their programs and services. She would like to automate the



Ann Amman

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Recognition

Staff library, continued from previous page

library in the near future. Please contact her with your requests; she can be reached at extension 6244 or via email at ann.amman@sonoma.dds.ca.gov.

Ann is new to working for the State. She also works part-time for the North Bay Cooperative Library System in Santa Rosa as reference librarian and network program manager. She has her Masters of Science in Library Science and has worked in academic, corporate, and public libraries. She and her husband, Kurt, live in Santa Rosa and have two children in college.

Employee of the Year—2008

Each January, Sonoma Developmental Center's (Sonoma) Employee Recognition Committee selects an employee from among the prior twelve employees of the month to receive the honor and recognition of the Employee of the Year award. This employee is generally a standout among the nominees as someone who exemplifies the facility values on a regular basis in the performance of his or her duties. Jim Tallent was justly selected as Employee of the Year for 2008. During a training session on January 22, 2008, Tallent was surprised by the Executive Committee with the presentation of the prestigious award. Among the qualities that got him nominated for the employee of the month, it was noted that Tallent is active on a variety of committees



Jim Tallent

and is always willing to help with many large special events throughout the year. He often performs the more physical aspects of event planning, set up and take down, and readily offers assistance to other staff. He goes beyond what is expected of him without complaint, and is someone that can always be relied upon to get the job done. Tallent's commitment to the residents of Sonoma is evident in everything he does. True to his name, Mr. Tallent is a team player that consistently demonstrates leadership, respectful relationships, and service to others. Congratulations, Jim!

January Employee of the Month

The Employee of the Month for January is Adlaine Alfonso, Psychiatric Technician from Cohen residence. Her nominators describe her as "Very

reliable, flexible and outgoing who is always ready to work." Her coworkers describe her as competent, dependable, conscientious and dedicated to the clients she serves on Cohen. They say, "She is very helpful, always has a smile on her face and is a very pleasant young lady to work with." Congratulations on your award, Adlaine!



Adlaine Alfonso

February Employee of the Month

Carmar Yanez, Psychiatric Technician Assistant from Stoneman residence was selected as Employee of the Month for February. "Carmar always has a smile on his face and is always wanting to learn. He treats the individuals who reside here with dignity and respect." He is described as kind, with a generous nature and is always conscientious towards everyone. "He goes out of his way to help others and to make you feel welcomed. I have never met such a hard worker and it is an honor to have worked with him." Way to go, Carmar!



Carmar Yanez

March Employee of the Month

The March Employee of the Month is Brian Pecha, MD, Medical Services. His nominators say, "Dr. Pecha has been instrumental and accessible when we have needed to contact him for necessary client information that is needed for ER2000*. He took the time to meet with headquarters staff and provide them with input so they could make much needed changes to ER2000, enabling staff to learn the program and make it more user friendly." They further state, "Dr. Pecha models the values of supporting others and fostering respectful relationships." Nice job, Dr. Pecha!



Brian Pecha, MD

* ER2000 is our new electronic record system for tracking physicians' orders.

Community Happenings

Casino Night

Casino night was held on January 28, 2009 at the Sonoma Developmental Center gym, which was decorated as a Reno or Las Vegas gaming hall. Staff were on hand to check coats and distribute gaming chips as individuals arrived to play a variety of games. Gaming options included a horse race table, a roulette table, a dice table, and black jack tables. Music played as “cocktail waitresses” served refreshments to the gamers and those in the lounge area. Individuals could “cash in” their chips at the prize table and select from a variety of prizes. Everyone left with more than just a winning smile!



A variety of games were available at Casino Night

Mardi Gras

On February 18, 2009, a dance was held in recognition of Mardi Gras. The gymnasium was decorated in true New Orleans fashion with colorful flags, oversized masks, and an abundance of bright glittery draping in green, yellow, and purple. Live music was provided by the Catahoulas, as “bartenders” served festive refreshments. A photo booth offered many costume items, including decorative hats, beads, and masks, which were sported all around the dance floor. This version of Bourbon Street was energetic, colorful, and festive!



Above: Selecting a refreshment from the picture menu

Right: The band

Sock Hop

The Sonoma gym was transformed into a 1950s-era high school gymnasium for the Sock Hop held on March 25, 2009. Decorations included dangling records, hula-hoops, musical notes, classic car cutouts, and a sparkling disco ball. A variety of costumes were available for those that took a photo-op with life-size cutout figures of Marilyn Monroe, James Dean, and Elvis. Drive-

2nd Quarter 2009

in style refreshments were served from a stand offering root beer floats and fifty-fifties (orange soda with vanilla ice cream). Everyone was swingin’ and groovin’ at the Hop with live 50s rock and roll by the band Showtime until it was time to “stroll” home at the end of the night.



At the Sock Hop

Performing Arts Auditions

Sonoma Developmental Center’s Performing Arts Company is working on this year’s performance of the annual play. Previous productions have included performances of *Grease*, *The Best of Broadway* (a musical review show), *The Music Man*, and *The Wizard of Oz*. At press time, the name of the production was still under wraps, but reliable sources say it will be another musical review.

The Performing Arts Company, a committee made up of Sonoma Developmental Center (Sonoma) employees and cast members who live at the center, was founded in 2005 as a way to involve the people who live at the center in a meaningful theatrical experience. All Sonoma residents are welcome to audition and are guaranteed a part in the play. Open auditions were held in mid-March, and rehearsals will begin in May and continue throughout the summer months. Live performances are scheduled for September.

The cast is comprised of approximately 40 singers, dancers, actors, and musicians. Volunteers are needed for this year’s performance to assist backstage, with rehearsals, props, costumes, and more. For information about volunteering at this year’s production, please contact the volunteer office at (707) 938-6213.



An actor is coached to demonstrate looking happy

The Opportunity Fair Is Coming!

The Area 4 Board and Sonoma Developmental Center (Sonoma) invite you to participate in the Opportunity Fair on Thursday, May 7, 2009 from

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Community Happenings

10 AM until 2 PM. The event will be held on the grounds surrounding the Sonoma House on the Sonoma campus.

The purpose of the fair is to present agencies that coordinate day programs, community living options, and work programs for persons with developmental disabilities. There will be over 20 vendors of such services who will share information about their programs. The event is open to residents of Sonoma, staff, families and conservators of our clients. It is a chance to see what innovative programs are being offered in the community. In addition to the information presented, there will also be entertainment, food, games, and a photo booth.

For more information please contact Jerry Corradi, Clients' Rights Advocate at (707) 938-6501.



One of the booths at a previous Opportunity Fair

New Hires

MSOT is the abbreviation for Maintenance and Service Occupations Trainee. Most MSOTs will become Custodians at the end of their training period. For the last several years, housekeeping services were supplied by Crothall Services, an outside contractor. That contract ended and now all custodians are state employees. Some of the people listed here used to work for Crothall.

January

Anthony Albini, MSOT
 Dina Aldana-Leon, Custodian
 Ann Amman, Senior Librarian
 Regina Aronson, Office Technician
 Maria Avina-Arroyo, Custodian
 Mike Bastian, Custodian
 Thomas Binder, Clinical Dietician
 Christopher Blankenship, MSOT
 Yolanda Cano Chavira, Custodian
 Tom Coffey, Custodian
 Linda Cotton, Psychiatric Technician Instructor
 Dave Crew, Supervising Housekeeper I
 Ever Cruz, Custodian
 Marianne Dias, Custodian
 Paul Dizon, MSOT
 Maria Escobar, MSOT



Ron James, MSOT, began work in January

George Espinosa, Custodian
 Pedro Fernandes, MSOT
 Enrico Floranda, Custodian
 Besie Florendo, Custodian
 Lisa Floyd, Office Technician
 Dalila Formato, Health Records Technician I
 Doug Franklin, MSOT
 Scott Fronce, Custodian
 Larry Gay, MSOT
 Vonda Gay, Custodian
 Daniel Green, MSOT
 Nemy Gutierrez, Custodian
 Cecilia Hermosillo, MSOT
 Edwin Hernandez, Custodian
 Richard Humfrey, MSOT
 Ron James, MSOT
 Dawit Kifile, Custodian
 Tishna Klamorth, MSOT
 Paul Larkin, Psychiatric Technician

Alberto Laxamana, Custodian
 Brian Lopez, MSOT
 Michael Magat, MSOT
 David Martin, MSOT
 Maria Martinez, MSOT
 Esther Miranda-Rivas, Custodian
 Cedric Murray, Supervising Housekeeper I

Brooks Nelson, Custodian
 Molly Perry, MSOT
 Emma Petre, MSOT
 Autumn Pickard, MSOT
 Aleyda Pimentel, Custodian
 Eric Pulido, MSOT
 Ryan Pulido, Custodian
 Mark Ramos, Pre-Licensed Psychiatric Technician
 Baldemar Ruiz, Custodian
 Maria Quinivista, MSOT
 Justin Schweigert, MSOT
 Brian Settles, Custodian
 Nola Jean Shaw, MSOT
 Olga Soto, MSOT
 Yoctan Soto, MSOT
 Crystal Thompson, Custodian
 Edward Timoney, MSOT
 Carmen Tomek, Program Director
 Perla Uy, Custodian
 Roosevelt Uy, Custodian
 Cindy White, Office Occupations Clerk
 Sparkle Winnfield, MSOT



Hortencia Diaz, Custodian, began work in February

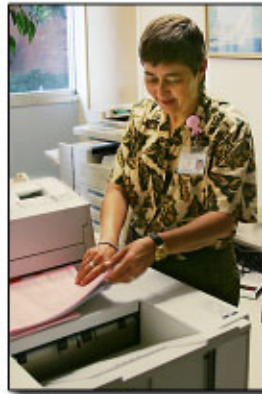
More New Hires

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Allan Xie, Custodian
 Christine Yanez, Health Services Specialist
 Teresa Young, Custodian
 Patricia Zelarayan, Custodian

February

Rosauro Abaya, Community Program Specialist II
 Victoriano Apan, MSOT
 Sharon Arata, Supervising Housekeeper I
 Allan Catalano, Painter I
 Charles Coleman, Supervising Housekeeper
 Emmanuel Daly, Custodian
 Hortencia Diaz, Custodian
 Brian Floranda, Custodian
 Robin Flynn, MSOT
 Rodney Irving, Custodian
 George Labrador, Custodian
 Veronica Madrigal, Custodian
 Gary McKinnon, Custodian
 Rafael Menendez, Custodian
 Frank Montoliu, Custodian
 Maurice Murray, Custodian
 Matilda Passini, Office Technician
 Jason Peters, Custodian
 Morgan Plumere, MSOT
 Danilo Quinivista, Custodian
 Mark Rhodes, Custodian
 Joyce Roessler, Office Technician
 Louise Salvador, Custodian
 Teresa Young, Custodian



Patty Bullington, EEO Coordinator, began work in March

Nely Ansagay, Office Technician
 Patty Bullington, Associate Governmental Program Analyst
 Sandra Cabrera, Supervising Housekeeper I
 Karen Carrol, Food Service Technician I
 Karen Clark, Administrative Services Director
 Roberta Cochran, Food Service Technician I
 Destiny Dawley, Office Technician
 Jesus Estrada, Unit Supervisor
 Francisca Harrison, Custodian
 Jeff Hunter, Custodian
 Judy Karanja, Custodian
 Stephen Keating, Custodian
 Aishma Kennedy, Supervising Housekeeper I
 Thomas Kugler, Protestant Chaplain
 Robert Musso, Custodian
 Kalindi Oza, Audiologist
 Franz Palay, Food Service Technician I
 Wendy Reid, Community Program Specialist I
 Boniface Rerai, Custodian
 Angeles Rojas, Custodian
 Richard Shea, Custodian
 Artis Souza, Firefighter
 Cheree Trusso, Individual Program Coordinator



Rosauro Abaya (L) began work in February. Wendy Reid (R) began work in March. Both work for the Sonoma Regional Project.

March

Christopher Analco, Custodian

Submitting articles to the Eldridge Press:

The *Eldridge Press* gladly accepts submissions of articles about events at SDC, news about SDC's departments and programs, employee recognition, and other information of interest to SDC's employees, consumers and other stakeholders. Articles may be edited for grammar, punctuation, and clarity. To submit your article, send it to the Office of Planning and Communications, Room 102, Sonoma Developmental Center, P.O. Box 1493, Eldridge, CA 95431. Deadlines are the 15th of the month prior to the publication date (for instance, June 15 is the deadline for the 3rd Quarter 2009 issue).

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