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Vol V August 2001

Directors' Message

by Gretchen Burns Bergman

At times it feels that we are experiencing a new dawning of enlightenment about addiction and that A New PATH is an integral part of a real change of direction about how to manage the disease.

At other times it seems that we are merely scratching the surface of the tremendous task that lies ahead in reducing the stigma of addiction and re-defining policies that have been ineffective and even destructive to the addicts and their families.

The major goal of our organization is towards better understanding of and more treatment opportunities for the addicted individual.

Specifically we advocate for treatment in the community instead of incarceration for non-violent drug offenders, treatment behind bars for addicted individuals whose crime is of a violent nature, and transitional programs for recovering addicts to successfully re-enter society.

Our first goal would appear, on the surface, to be met with the passage of Proposition 36 in California, which mandates treatment instead of jail for non-violent drug offenders. This law took effect in California on July 1, 2001. But, will it be carried out as a therapeutic healthcare or as a criminal justice model? Enclosed in this newsletter is an article that I wrote for the Union Tribune that details a number of my concerns about successful implementation.

The Lindesmith Center issued a report card in June grading 11 counties across the state on the quality of their plans for implementa-

tion. The elements graded were:

1) Money for Treatment: the % of funds that will be allocated directly to treatment

2) Treatment Options: the range of treatment programs available

3) Docs or Cops: the inclusion of public health professionals in the planning process

4) Community Voices: the balance of criminal justice, community and public health representation.

San Diego received a D+ grade in contrast to San Francisco and San Mateo who received A's, and Orange County and Los Angeles who received B grades.

San Diego lost several points because it failed to include methadone maintenance in its plan. This is particularly ironic since San Diego has the second highest rate of heroin overdoses in the state. The low score also reflected the fact that assessment and case management will be handled by probation instead of public health professionals, in this county.

Extra credit points were given to four counties for DA accountability. The San Diego District Attorney's office and six others did not give guidelines to determine Prop. 36 eligibility. The fear is that offenders could be over-charged, which would make them ineligible. Having sat on local committees for implementation, the Lindesmith's findings highlight some of the concerns that I have been voicing as a consumer advocate.

To date, San Diego County has

Continued on page 3

PATH has partnered with a number of organizations in its commitment to meet the goals of its mission statement. We have included a brief statement from the latest, FACTS (Families to Amend California's Three Strikes). An unfortunate result of the 3 Strikes law has been the incarceration of many people who would be Prop 36 candidates—non-violent drug offenders who need care, not incarceration—and who are receiving outrageous sentences for crimes such as simple possession. Just because it is a third conviction. We at PATH support amending the 3 strikes law.

I have included an article about Canada's progressive movement toward drug reform. It is actually instigated by politicians which is a refreshing change from the US. The article refers to our so-called war against drugs as an "insane anti-drug jihad". Sadly, it's fitting.

The WAD, or War Against Drugs (there's an acronym for you!) has turned the USA into a third world country. The WAD is referred to as a jihad, organizations such as Mothers of the Disappeared are created—reminiscent of the women of South America whose families disappeared under horrific dictatorships—and families and friends incarcerated for drug offenses are referred to as Prisoners of War. Will we take to the streets to end this war as in the case of Vietnam?

Pulitzer prize winning historian Barbara Tuchman, in her book *The March of Folly*, describes the pursuit by governments of policies contrary to their own interests and, among others, cites the Vietnam War. One of the three qualifiers for folly in government is the policy should have an available alternative course of action.

As there were alternatives to war in Vietnam, we have an alternative to the war against our own citizens. Treatment not incarceration. We have stormed the barricades through the ballot box. (See the article about the Florida initiative) We will continue to fight until we are successful.

IT TAKES A COMMUNITY our annual fund raiser is September 8, 2001 at the Emerald Wyndham Plaza. Last year's event was a financial success for PATH and the MHA (Mental Health Association) and a very moving evening. Please join us this year to celebrate our accomplishments and to toast our community members whose contributions have enriched us all.

Carolyn Angell
Editor

Attention PATH Members...

For immediate and up-to-date information, please send us your e-mail address and we can inform you electronically! Our email address at PATH is BAnewpath@aol.com

Gretchen Burns Bergman:

In today's busy world, sometimes we only have a few moments to get our message out. Here is my elevator speech (the time it takes to go from the first to the top floor). I invite you to use mine, or to develop your own, and to seize any opportunity to tell others about our cause.

Who: A New PATH (Parents for Addiction Treatment & Healing).

What: We are a non-profit organization of parents, concerned citizens and community leaders working together to mandate treatment for addicts who have been convicted of non-violent, drug-related crimes.

Why: Because punitive incarceration doesn't work, but treatment does.

Result: Our approach will save lives, heal families, reduce crime, and save taxpayer dollars.

A New PATH newsletter is published quarterly by the Parents for Addiction Treatment and Healing non-profit organization.

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Other States Following California's Lead!

The Florida Drug Treatment Initiative is a proposed constitutional amendment expected to be placed before Florida voters on the November 2002 ballot. The measure, sponsored by the Florida Campaign for New Drug Policies, is also known by its official title: "Right to Treatment and Rehabilitation for Nonviolent Drug Offenses." In summary, the measure:

Offers treatment to first and second-time drug possession offenders

A person charged with or convicted of drug possession may elect to receive treatment and rehabilitation services in lieu of being prosecuted or sentenced. The measure screens out persons dealing drugs, committing other crimes along with drug possession, or with a violent history. Treatment may also be requested for a third or subsequent offenses, subject to the court's discretion. A person may reject treatment and be sentenced under existing law.

Provides for professional assessment and placement in treatment

A qualified treatment professional will be appointed by the court to assess each individual's treatment needs and to determine the appropriate course of treatment, which may last for up to 18 months under court supervision. Treatment is defined broadly to include vocational training, literacy training, and other support services in addition to addiction therapy.

Allows change in treatment program or removal for violations, and offers benefits for completion

The measure outlines progressive steps for modifying a person's treatment program or removing the person from treatment in response to violations. It also provides benefits, including dismissal of criminal charges, for completion of treatment.

Imposes consequences for failure in treatment

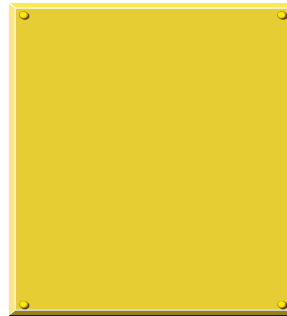
A person who is removed from treatment due to multiple violations faces prosecution or sentencing under pre-existing laws, with up to five years in prison as a result.

Provides for legislative implementation.

Because the initiative is a brief constitutional amendment, the Legislature is given a role in more fully detailing how the system will operate through implementing legislation.

QUILT 2001 PROJECT RAISED \$2100

The opportunity drawing for the beautiful Helen Teisher, hand sewn quilt raised more than \$2000 for PATH. The drawing, held in May, was won by Mary Micetich of Joliet, Illinois. Congratulations Mary, and thank you to everyone for supporting this worthwhile project.



Director's Message

Continued from page 1

been allocated \$12.7 million. With a clear understanding that punitive models will fail, it is essential that parents, families and the healthcare community remain involved in the process to assure that a therapeutic model be established and that as much of the funding that is feasible goes to treatment.

Citizens need also to be ready to embrace the concept of treatment facilities in their neighborhoods, and that will only happen with education and the destigmatizing effects of positive experience.

We have barely begun the battle for prison reform and change of policy for rehabilitation and recovery during incarceration. With our focus on community-based treatment, we must not forget how many of our sons and daughters with the disease of addiction are lost in meaningless lives behind bars where the environment is dangerous and destructive. Treatment is a way out of this maze.

One of my favorite sayings is "When the people lead, the leaders will follow". If we continue to spread the word, others will listen, and the world can be a better and safer place.

Treatment a humane alternative to Failure of Drug War

Copyright The San Diego Union - Tribune; San Diego, Calif.; Jun 21, 2001;
Gretchen Burns Bergman;

Despite recent signals from the federal government that it is renewing efforts to block the supply of drugs to the United States, it is clear to most citizens that the war on drugs has failed and that it is time to concentrate our efforts upon demand. Drug addiction is a public health problem of epidemic proportions, and treatment appears to be the only viable solution.

Last November, the people of California proved that they were ahead of the politicians by passing Proposition 36, mandating treatment instead of incarceration for nonviolent drug offenders. With this change of focus to demand reduction, comes the opportunity to not only save wasted dollars, but to save lives and heal families.

Because the rest of the nation is watching us in California and our efforts will make an even greater impact as this change sweeps across the states, it is imperative that the new law is implemented effectively on July 1. Success should be the only option. Unfortunately, there are obstacles that could alter the outcomes.

It seems ironic that many of the same people who decried the proposition as “dangerous and misleading” are now taking charge of its implementation. Sitting on committees are various people from the criminal justice system as well as members of the health care community. Working out all the details while respecting each other’s concerns and priorities is difficult but crucial.

The justice system still wants to utilize a criminal justice model when handling drug offenders. However, most medical and health care professionals see addiction as a disease — an illness like diabetes or high blood pressure — and, like those medical conditions, requiring control with proper treatment by health care providers. From a parental perspective, I believe that the best way to protect public safety, which is the major concern of the District Attorney’s Office, is to treat offenders so that they can lead productive lives, which leads to reduced crime and safer neighborhoods.

Although the \$120 million that will be allocated annually for treatment sounds like a lot, when it is divided among all the counties in the state, and when you realize how many addicted offenders need intensive and extensive care, there just isn’t enough money to go around.

In 1999 there were more than 11,000 felony and misdemeanor drug possession arrests in San Diego County, and the numbers are going up. To add to that problem, several agencies are voicing a need to

beef up staffing and systems.

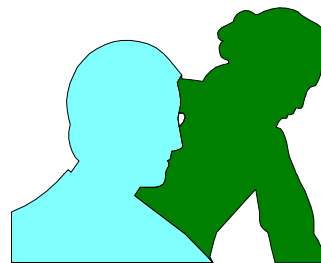
The lack of money and treatment spots available will alter our ability to match appropriate recovery plans to the addicted individuals. Four levels of treatment have been set up in San Diego County from education plans to structured residential programs. Early assessment would indicate that many of the individuals who will qualify for treatment are heroin and methamphetamine users with long histories of use. Although they need intensive care, they may only get minimum programs, which would set them up for further failures.

The preferred plan would be for long-term structured rehabilitation with gradually increasing independence as they move forward in recovery. And, in the event of relapse, a loss of privileges and a return to more structure is an appropriate consequence. It is our hope that the court understands relapse and doesn’t abandon the addict with a third slip and order punitive incarceration.

A major obstacle could be many citizens’ reluctance to accept recovery centers in their own backyard. Fear and prejudice close people’s minds to change for the greater good. Recovering individuals actually make good neighbors. They have service work to do and society to repay, and are often grateful for the opportunity. Community-based recovery centers are a far better alternative than having illicit drug activity occurring in your neighborhood. Therapeutic communities should be embraced and supported all over the county in order to address the magnitude of the need.

PATH (Parents for Addiction Treatment and Healing) continues to deliver the message that drug addicts are human beings who probably started their lives with a lot of promise before the disease took them off course. Working together we can be sure that they are given the opportunity to overcome their illness, realize their potential and become contributing members of society.

We are on the brink of exciting change. Success depends on collaborative efforts and commitment to positive solutions.



On the Issues of Nimby'ism

by Sylvia Liwerant

One of the main goals for "A New PATH," has been to find the way to provide treatment for non-violent addicts instead of incarceration. We worked very hard to help pass Proposition 36, and are delighted that it went into effect on July 1st.

New problems arise with new situations, and this one isn't an exception: we are in dire need of more treatment facilities, so that addicts can be treated. Many of them need in-patient treatment, which means living in a residential facility where they can learn how to live without drugs or alcohol, where they have the help and support of counselors and peers, and can learn to live sober lives again, start a job, re-unite with their families, etc.

Others will need outpatient programs, which they must attend 2, 3, or 5 times a week for group meetings, in addition to N.A., A.A. or other support groups..

Then there are "sober living" homes, which are, as the name states, homes where addicts live, usually after going through in-patient programs, or during their out-patient treatments.

We need all of these facilities if we're going to help them take hold of their lives again. This will promote safer neighborhoods and reduce crime. The neighbors of the in-patient facilities can attest to the fact that they pick up trash, help paint their houses, and offer different kinds of services to the communities where they live, they are an asset, not a liability.

Several months ago, a wonderful facility named "Delancey Street" went into escrow for a well suited but run down building on Imperial Beach. The plan was to refurbish it, the addicts themselves would do it, and we, in San Diego, would benefit from their unique program, which helps substance abusers as well as people from all walks of life who need to integrate back into society. Unfortunately, the neighbors decided they don't want "that sort" of facility in their neighborhood, in spite of the letters of recommendation that the San Francisco Mayor and Senator Diane Feinstein wrote praising the organization. It's unfortunate that that opportunity was lost.

When we voted for Prop.36 we were seeking change, trying to mend a wrong. Incarcerating non-violent drug users is a waste of time, money and effort. They must be sent to treatment..We cannot say at this point "not in my back yard" (nimby). As citizens and responsible human beings we need to let our voices be heard by encouraging treatment facilities to be opened all around San Diego and North County.

Second Annual "It Takes A Community"

Join us in waging a war on the stigma of addiction and mental illness! On Saturday, September 8, 2001 A New PATH (Parents for Addiction Treatment and Healing) and the Mental Health Association in San Diego County (MHA) will present the second annual "It Takes A Community" event at the Emerald Wyndham Plaza.

This elegant gala, co-chaired by Gretchen Burns Bergman and Lorraine Watson, will feature a VIP reception in the Emerald Shapery Penthouse, beginning at 5:30 pm, with celebrities and special honored guests. A silent auction, dinner, entertainment and awards ceremony, held in the Emerald Ballroom will follow.

Several community leaders will be honored for their contributions to reduce the stigma of addiction and mental illness. Honorees will include Senator Richard Polanco, D-Los Angeles, Superior Court Judge Norbert Ehrenfreund, Mike Gray, author of Drug Crazy, Scott Silverman, founder of Second Chance, Gary Jaeger, M.D., Chief of Addiction Medicine, Kaiser Foundation Hospital, and Channel 10 anchorwoman Carol LeBeau.

Guest MC for the auction is popular radio personality Joe Bauer, and guest MC for the awards ceremony is Rory Devine, KNSD News 7/39, and celebrity presenter is Desi Arnaz, Jr.

It Takes A Community..... will benefit MHA and A New PATH, organizations who share a commitment to provide treatment and recovery services for individuals whose lives have been damaged by addictions.

Major sponsors for the event are:
Diamond Underwriter, San Diego Foundation
Dr. Seuss Fund
Platinum Underwriters, Scripps La Jolla & Scripps Mercy Behavioral Health Services and Glaxo SmithKline
Ticket price: \$75 & \$100 (includes VIP reception)

For further information, please contact:
Karen Luton (MHA) at 619-543-0412 or
Gretchen Bergman (PATH) at 619-670-1184

Canada... One Step Closer to Decriminalization

by Alejandro Bustos
Canadian Correspondent

TORONTO - Many Canadians consider it a given that marijuana will eventually be decriminalized here. Unlike the United States, which is addicted to the drug war, Canada is making steady progress in reforming its narcotics laws. This shift towards reform has been taking place for several years now, and can be seen on several fronts.

The most recent development is Ottawa's decision to legalize marijuana for medicinal purposes. The new law, which came into effect July 30, allows severely ill patients with a doctor's approval to apply to Health Canada to grow and use marijuana. In sharp contrast, the U.S. Supreme Court voted 8-0 this past May that there is "no accepted medical use" for pot.

The difference between Washington and Ottawa has been noted abroad. The day after Ottawa's medical marijuana law came into effect, the respected Mexican daily *La Jornada* noted that the attitude in Canada, "contrasted with the situation in the United States." Radio Formula 1500 AM in Mexico City also extensively covered the new Canadian law.

A second factor driving Canada's drug reform efforts is its relatively Liberal view on using marijuana.

In the United States, the last two presidents have given embarrassing answers when asked if they have ever used drugs. Bill Clinton said he puffed but didn't inhale; George W. Bush has completely dodged the issue, claiming his "irresponsible" actions as a youth are irrelevant.

North of the U.S. border, however, politicians routinely admit to having tried drugs. Of the five political parties in the House of Commons, the leaders of three - the New Democratic Party, the Alliance and the Bloc Quebecois - have admitted to taking a puff or two as youths.

The fourth party leader, Joe Clark of the Progressive Conservatives, said he would decriminalize pot during his brief stint as prime minister in 1979-80. Clark's minority government was kicked out of office by a non-confidence vote before it could pass its pro-marijuana law.

Meanwhile, Liberal Prime Minister Jean Chretien, along with his Justice and Health ministers, has said he welcomes a debate on decriminalization. In fact, prior to the summer Parliamentary recess, all five parties in the Commons voted unanimously to establish a committee into the use of non-medical drugs. The committee is expected to look at the issues of decriminalization and legalization.

A Senate committee is already looking at the issue of illegal drugs. The chairman of that committee, Senator Pierre-Claude Nolin, is in favour of legalizing marijuana.

A third factor is the large amount of public support for legalizing pot. A Leger Marketing poll this past June, for instance, found that 46.8 per cent of Canadians were in favour of legalization. In the provinces of Quebec and British Columbia, more than 50 per cent were in favour.

Interestingly, a Canadian Press story on the poll focused on the fact that a majority of Canadians were not in favour of legalization. "What this poll suggest is that the government doesn't necessarily have a blank cheque," Jean-Marc Leger, president of Leger Marketing, was quoted as saying.

In the U.S., chances are high a reporter would focus on the high number of people advocating drug reform.

Drug reform advocates in Canada and the U.S. also focus on different aspects when asked about Ottawa's drug law reforms.

Canadian laws "are not as repressive as Sweden," Eugene Oscapella, a lawyer and founding member of the pro-reform group Canadian Foundation for Drug Policy, told me. "But we are far behind countries like Portugal, Spain, Italy and Belgium."

A new law in Portugal, which came into effect July 1, has decriminalized the use of all drugs, from cannabis to crack.

In contrast, Ethan Nadelmann, executive director of the U.S.-based Lindesmith Center-Drug Policy Foundation, fully praised Canada.

"The bottom line is that Canada is pulling away from the U.S. and moving towards the European model," he said in an interview.

These two quotes reveal a lot about how Washington and Ottawa handle the drug issue. For a U.S. citizen used to an insane anti-drug jihad, Canada is a breath of fresh air. But for a Canadian, who is accustomed to a more rational approach, the new medical marijuana law is only the beginning.

Alejandro Bustos is a 25-year-old journalist. He has worked for the Canadian Press as reporter/editor for both the Ontario and World Desks. In September, he will attend law school at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, while continuing to write journalism on the side.

Reprinted from the NarcoNews website Issue #13, August 5, 2001

Perlman makes his music - the hard way

By JACK RIEMER

King Features Syndicate

On Nov. 18, 1995, *Itzhak Perlman*, the violinist, came on stage to give a concert at Avery Fisher Hall at Lincoln Center in New York City.

If you have ever been to a *Perlman* concert, you know that getting on stage is no small achievement for him. He was stricken with polio as a child, and so he has braces on both legs and walks with the aid of two crutches.

To see him walk across the stage one step at a time, painfully and slowly, is an awesome sight. He walks painfully, yet majestically, until he reaches his chair. Then he sits down slowly, puts his crutches on the floor, undoes the clasps on his legs, tucks one foot back and extends the other foot forward. Then he bends down and picks up the violin, puts it under his chin, nods to the conductor and proceeds to play.

By now, the audience is used to this ritual. They sit quietly while he makes his way across the stage to his chair. They remain reverently silent while he undoes the clasps on his legs. They wait until he is ready to play.

But this time, something went wrong. Just as he finished the first few bars, one of the strings on his violin broke. You could hear it snap - it went off like gunfire across the room. There was no mistaking what that sound meant. There was no mistaking what he had to do.

People who were there that night thought to themselves: "We figured that he would have to get up, put on the clasps again, pick up the crutches and limp his way off stage - to either find another violin or else find another string for this one."

But he didn't. Instead, he waited a moment, closed his eyes and then signaled the conductor to begin again. The orchestra began, and he played from where he had left off. And he played with such passion and such power and such purity as they had never heard before.

Of course, anyone knows that it is impossible to play a symphonic work with just three strings. I know that, and you know that, but that night, *Itzhak Perlman* refused to know that. You could see him modulating, changing, recomposing the piece in his head. At one point, it sounded like he was de-tuning the strings to get new sounds from them that they had never made before.

When he finished, there was an awesome silence in the room. And then people rose and cheered. There was an extraordinary outburst of applause from every corner of the auditorium. We were all on our feet, screaming and cheering, doing everything we could to show how much we appreciated what he had done.

He smiled, wiped the sweat from his brow, raised his bow to quiet us, and then he said - not boastfully, but in a quiet, pensive, reverent tone - "You know, sometimes it is the artist's task to find out how much music you can still make with what you have left."

A New PATH

What a powerful line that is. It has stayed in my mind ever since I heard it.

And who knows? Perhaps that is the definition of life - not just for artists but for all of us. Here is a man who has prepared all his life to make music on a violin of four strings, who, all of a sudden, in the middle of a concert, finds himself with only three strings so he makes music with three strings, and the music he made that night with just three strings was more beautiful, more sacred, more memorable, than any that he had ever made before, when he had four strings.

So, perhaps our task in this shaky, fast-changing, bewildering world in which we live is to make music, at first with all that we have, and then, when that is no longer possible, to make music with what we have left.

County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency Program and Hotline Telephone Numbers

AIDSHOTLINE 800-922-2437

ALCOHOLANDDRUGSERVICE 619-692-5727

BATTEREDWOMEN'SSERVICEHOTLINE 619-234-3164

COMMUNICABLEDISEASESREPORTING
858-565-5255

DOMESTICVIOLENCEHELPERREFERRAL
888-305-SAFE

ANDINFORMATIONHOTLINE
INDEPENDENTLIVINGSERVICES 619-514-6674

MEDI-CAL/MEDICAIDINFORMATION 858-514-6885

MENTALHEALTHACCESSLINE 800-479-3339

POLINSKYCHILDREN'SCENTER 858-514-4600

PUBLICASSISTANCEINFORMATION 858-514-6885

SMOKINGQUITLINES 800-662-8887

PROP. 36 ELIGIBILITY DEBATED IN COURTS

Laws: An appeals panel will determine whether drug defendants convicted before the measure went into effect can be given treatment rather than jail time. Entering the debate over Proposition 36, a state appeals court has agreed to hear arguments on whether drug defendants convicted before the measure took effect July 1 can be sentenced to drug treatment rather than time behind bars.

Responding to a writ from the Los Angeles County public defender's office, a second appellate district panel on Thursday ordered the release of an inmate who had been sentenced to jail rather than treatment. The defendant, Janet Delong, was found guilty of cocaine possession in May, but was not sentenced until July 12. The state appellate court will take up the issue in late September.

At Delong's sentencing, Superior Court Judge Stephanie Sautner denied a public defender's request to sentence her under the initiative. "I don't find that she falls within the scheme of Proposition 36 within the time frame allotted," said Sautner, a judge at the Airport Branch Courthouse. Approved by 61% of California voters in November, Proposition 36 gives first- and second-time drug offenders convicted of possessing, using or transporting drugs for personal use the chance to receive probation and treatment rather than jail sentences.

As courts grapple with how to implement the law, legal challenges are occurring around the state. In Orange County, prosecutors have appealed judges' rulings that authorized drug treatment for defendants whose crimes they say are not covered by the initiative.

Los Angeles County prosecutors, meanwhile, are studying the possibility of appealing rulings that have allowed drug offenders arrested before July 1 to participate in Proposition 36 programs. The outcome of the Sept. 24 appellate court hearing could affect several cases. Currently, the July 1 cutoff date is being interpreted differently from court to court.

"There are judges on both sides on this issue," said Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge Michael Tynan, who supervises the county's drug courts. "Nobody is going to be totally happy until the appellate court tells us exactly what cases come in under Proposition 36." The final word eventually will come from the California Supreme Court, he said. At this point, Tynan believes most California judges recognize that the spirit of the

law is to allow for treatment rather than incarceration.

Judge Stephen Marcus shared that opinion when he granted a defense attorney's request to sentence Los Angeles Avenger quarterback Todd Marinovich under Proposition 36. Marinovich was arrested in December and pleaded no contest to heroin possession in March.

In another high-profile case, actor Robert Downey Jr. was arrested in April but waited until July 16 to plead no contest to charges of possessing cocaine and being under the influence. Downey also was placed on probation and allowed to enter drug treatment.

Proposition co-author Dave Fratello said that he intended the law to apply to defendants sentenced after July 1, but that some prosecutors are reading the law differently. "There are some forces out there that are trying to find ways to exclude people from the proposition, and this is one of the ways to do it," he said.

Delong, 35, was arrested in August for possession of cocaine and was found guilty by a jury May 18. Out of custody on her own recognition, she voluntarily enrolled in an outpatient rehabilitation program. On July 12, Delong was sentenced to 150 days in the Los Angeles County Jail and immediately taken into custody. At the sentencing, prosecutors said the Culver City woman should not be allowed to take advantage of the new initiative because she was convicted before July 1.

"Our office believes she's not eligible under the law," said Jane Robison, a district attorney's spokeswoman. "It is our reading of the law that the cutoff date is the conviction date." Defense attorneys argued that the official conviction date is when the judge imposes the sentence. They believe that Delong is an ideal candidate for rehabilitation and that it does not make sense for her to be incarcerated.

"It boils down to an issue of fairness," said Deputy Public Defender Alex Ricciardulli, who is handling the Delong appeal. "Here is a person just as needy and as drug-addicted as anyone else. It would be extremely unfair to exclude her just because of the timing of the offense."

Ricciardulli filed a writ with the 2nd District Court of Appeal on July 19, and the court issued the order to show cause that same day. Delong was released from jail the next day, attorneys said.

Purpose of Families to Amend California's 3-Strikes (FACTS)



Our major purpose is to amend the 3-Strikes law in California so it is only applicable to violent felonies. Nearly 75% of 2nd and 50% of 3rd strikes within California are for non-violent offenses.

In addition, we advocate that the law be amended in the following ways:

- (1) the law should not be applicable to crimes committed before its enactment in 1994;
- (2) the law should not count multiple counts during a single act as multiple strikes;
- (3) the law should include a "wash-out" period such that convictions older than ten years do not count as strikes;
- (4) burglary of unoccupied dwellings should not count as "serious or violent" strikes; and(5) the law should not be applicable to juvenile offenses.

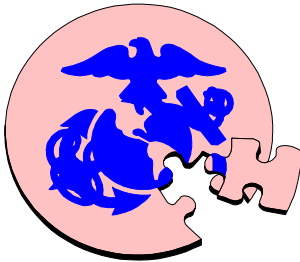
We plan to continuously grow and stay active until we get the law amended. We are a state-wide organization that is actively trying to influence the news media, the public, and politicians so they learn about the problems with the 3-Strikes law.

We understand the public's fear, anger and perception of crime. Some of us felt the same way and supported the 3-Strikes law as a way to protect the innocent from violent criminals. But the facts and experiences, not widely known except by the families whose lives have been destroyed by the 3-Strikes law, support our belief that the 3-Strikes law does not serve or benefit the people of California but rather the growing Prison Industrial Complex. Prisons are big business and people are the commodity.

Editor's note: You can obtain a copy of the FACTS Pledge of Assistance to amend the three strikes law by phoning 213/746-4844 or faxing 213/746-4944.

ATTENTION Check These Dates!!!

Join us on Tuesday, October 2 at the API Hospital. PATH will present Dr. Nate Lowe of the Department of Defense. He will speak about the drug program for the Marine Corps.



There will be no General Membership meeting in September. We will be having the It Takes A Community... fundraiser on September 8 at the Emerald Wyndham Plaza in lieu of the meeting. See the article on page 5 about the fundraiser.

The SDPC (San Diego Prevention Coalition), with the DEA and CASA (Communities Against Substance Abuse), will sponsor the first Tri-City Club Drug Conference on Sept. 12-13. For more info call 619-557-6635.

Meeting of the Minds: "Achieving Empowerment"

Presented by the Mental Health Association

Meeting of the Minds Behavioral Health Conference
Town & Country Convention Center
October 23, 2001
PATH Workshop time to be announced

A New PATH (Parents for Addiction Treatment and Healing) will present an in-depth panel discussion exploring the various reasons for the success of treatment and why it is the only rational solution to our Nation's "War on Drug".

By focusing our attention on the demand for drugs and concentrating our efforts on various treatment opportunities we can begin to significantly reduce the harm and devastation that individuals, families and society has felt as a result of the misunderstanding and mismanagement of the disease of addiction.

Speakers will approach the topic of substance abuse and treatment from several perspectives: legal, financial and human and family values. We will emphasize the need to collaborate together for the best-possible results.

The workshop will provide valid information and viewpoints for parents, educators, law enforcement agencies, taxpayers and concerned citizens about problems and solutions to a public health problem of epidemic proportions.

The goals of our workshop coincide with the theme of the conference. Through education, more and better rehabilitation opportunities and comprehensive treatment approaches, individuals will be empowered to overcome their illness, realize their potential, and become contributing members of their communities and society at large.

Topics of discussion will include Proposition 36 (mandating treatment for non-violent drug offenders); the need for valid recovery and rehabilitation opportunities behind bars; and "harm reduction" strategies, such as the use of naloxone in preventing overdose deaths. Speakers will include Gretchen Burns Bergman (Director), Steven E. Feldman (Advisory Board), John Micetich (Fundraising Chair), and Jerry Rand (Advisory Board).

Alcohol and Drug Service Providers Association

Alcohol and Drug Service Providers Association (ADSPA) has over 30 member agencies that provide substance abuse treatment and recovery services throughout San Diego County. The association was formed to serve as a united voice to advocate for providers, to act as a liaison between providers and all levels of county government and to identify needs or gaps in services and to help identify ways to meet them. We meet on the second Thursday of each month at the County Health Complex on Rosecrans in San Diego.

Our goals for this year have been:

- a. Equity for residential programs
- b. Assist with the transition of Proposition 36
- c. Back statewide equity for all programs
- d. Actively participate in the reorganization process at all levels
- e. Promote and provide training on alcohol and other substances within our community

Based on the need for additional residential beds due to the passage of Proposition 36, and difficulty in obtaining new sites ADSPA formed a Not In My Backyard (NIMBYism) sub-committee. This committee identified problem areas and solutions and through these efforts the County of San Diego contracted with the Institute for Public Strategies (IPS) to provide technical assistance and media advocacy for all providers. IPS has agreed to work closely with ADSPA to help change implement policy changes and ultimately provide much needed residential beds.

Advertise Your Business

It Takes A Community...

Gala Awards Event

Wyndam Emerald Plaza

September 9, 2001

Program Ad Space: \$30 for business card size

\$50 for half page ad

\$100 for full page ad

On behalf of PATH and MHA, we thank you for your support!

Make check out to: *It Takes a Community* & return with this form

& your business card or ad to: A New PATH

2527 Doubletree Rd.

Spring Valley, CA 91978

If you have any questions, please call Kristy Robinson at 619-670-1184

____ I would like to place an ad in the *It Takes a Community...* program.

____ \$30 business card

____ \$50 half page ad

____ \$100 full page ad

____ My check and ad materials are enclosed.

ANew PATH
P.O. Box 3644 #264
Rancho Santa Fe, CA 92067

Mission Statement

PATH is a voluntary organization of concerned parents of individuals suffering from the disease of addiction. Our PURPOSE is to partner with health care professionals, the justice system, recovering addicts and concerned members of society to seek better understanding of the illness and "therapeutic justice" for substance-related criminal activities.

Our GOAL is to reduce recidivism, save lives, heal families and move toward a healthier society.

Our Proposals for Alternative Sentencing

1) Long-term mandatory rehabilitation in a structured alcohol and drug-free recovery environment for non-violent offenders.

2) If the nature of the crime does not allow for this alternative, sentencing should include immediate placement in a rehabilitation and recovery program within the prison system.

3) Upon release from prison or recovery homes, substance abusers should be mandated to a transitional program in a sober-living environment to prepare them to re-enter society.

History

PATH grew out of a series of pre-Substance Abuse Summit meetings with parents, Superior Court Judges and officers of the criminal justice system in the Spring of 1999. Founding members are Gretchen Burns Bergman, Sylvia Liwerant and Tom O'Donnell.

NEWSFLASH!

The PATH Reference Guide for services and assistance with drug treatment and drug addiction issues is now available. Contact the Path office at 619-670-1184 or Banewpath@aol.com to get your copy. It is only \$5.00. Our profound thanks to Christina Snyder for all of her hard work in compiling this important guide.

Endorsed By

San Diego Psychiatric Society

Mental Health Association
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San Diego Association
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Families to Amend
California's Three-Strikes