



## STAFF BRIEFING # 91

January 13, 2006

### St. John's Older Adult Inpatient Unit Closure

In the spirit of keeping staff informed of community developments, we are advising you of St. John's Medical Center geropsychiatric unit's unexpected closure, leaving Sherman Oaks, in Los Angeles, as the nearest Geropsychiatric unit available to Santa Barbara County residents.

ADMHS Administration wishes to inform staff & stakeholders on the actions we plan to take. These actions include:

1. ADMHS Executives & Division Managers are meeting with Cottage Hospital's Administration, Lisa Moore & Chief of Psychiatry, Dr. Erickson, to discuss geropsychiatric voluntary admits to Cottage - 5E and how ADMHS can assist in this process;
2. ADMHS is reviewing the new Older Adult MHA Program, in preparation for improvement of wraparound support to enable older adults to remain at home.
3. ADMHS Medical Director, Dr. Jeffrey Davis, will meet with Bernice James, Treasurer-Tax Collector/Public Guardian, on the need to develop a fast-track process for the establishment of probate conservatorships, permitting rapid Skilled Nursing Facility placements.
4. ADMHS is revitalizing the Older Adult/Geropsychiatric Task Force as a collaborative with other County departments, CBOs, and community experts to develop a united approach to geropsychiatric patients who are unstable and potentially in need of involuntary placement.
5. The Director will bring older adult treatment issues to the attention of other department heads at the Inter-Agency Policy Council.

As a Department, ADMHS is committed to providing the best possible care and treatment for all our older adult clients. We are distressed at the continuing closure of inpatient psychiatric units throughout California and the United States. We look on this closure as an opportunity to respond creatively to the community's needs.

- Rob Walton, RN, Division Manager