



# PATHWAYS TO PROMISE:

Interfaith Ministries and Prolonged Mental Illnesses

PATHWAYS TO PROMISE NEWSLETTER, Vol. 7, No. 2

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Editor,  
Jennifer Shifrin

## An End and A New Beginning: Pathways to Promise Will Continue

**At the September 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Board of Representatives it was determined that resources were at hand for Pathways to continue. Thus, the motion to dissolve was rescinded, and task forces set up to further develop plans for the future. More details will be available soon.**

**Why Pathways Was Created:** As you read this and begin to think about possibilities for a "new beginning" it will be helpful to review why Pathways was created. It was created in 1988 to enable faith communities to become leaders in reaching out to people with mental illness and their families and to promote their full inclusion and empowerment for mutual and interactive participation in their faith communities. Pathways' goal is to be a catalyst for action in the faith community that enhances the quality of life for those struck with mental illness and their families. Pathways is committed to creating an atmosphere in the faith and mental health communities to enable cooperative and coordinated activities such as educational or service programs.

**What Pathways has accomplished:** Over the years Pathways has developed into a technical assistance and resource center which offers liturgical and educational materials, program models, and networking information to promote a caring ministry with people with mental illness and their families. These resources are used by people at all levels of faith group structures from local congregations to regional and national staff. Pathways also assists laity and lay organizations interested in educating themselves about working with the faith community.

**Educational Resources** are used in congregations, educational events for faith group staff, seminary course work and continuing education events, regional and national denominational events, and other settings to heighten an understanding and sensitivity in the faith community to the needs of people with a mental illness and their families. Resources include brochures, bulletin inserts, liturgical resources, booklets, manuals and videotapes.

- ▶ **Worship Resources** are available to assist the faith community to develop materials that are appropriate for their community.
- ▶ The **Pathways to Promise Newsletter** currently is published twice a year to share information, to facilitate networking, and to promote a caring ministry with people with mental illness and their families.
- ▶ **Databases** developed by Pathways are available to assist in providing bibliographic, program, and networking information for those who request it.

**The Challenge to Continue the Work Initiated by Pathways:** As stated in the Board resolution, the Board does recognize that “*substantial, vital, ongoing and expanded work still needs to be done.*” The Board goes on to say that it entrusts “*the care of persons experiencing a mental illness to our faith groups.*” Therefore the challenge is clear: to develop a new mechanism(s) to ensure that ongoing and expanded work will be done by faith communities to enable them to become leaders in reaching out to people with mental illness and their families and to promote their full inclusion and empowerment for mutual and interactive participation in their faith communities.

**Some questions to consider:**

- ▶ Do you have an ongoing need for any of the resources and/or services that Pathways has provided in the past?
- ▶ What are they?
- ▶ Is there anything else that Pathways provides that you will continue to need?
- ▶ What do you need that Pathways has not provided that a redesigned or new entity could provide?
- ▶ If a distribution center/bookstore took over all the Pathways resource materials and added them to their catalog, would that meet your needs?
- ▶ Who should be involved in a redesigned or new entity? Faith group national offices? Individuals? Congregations? Mental illness networks of various faith groups, such as those featured in the “Network News” article on page 5?

**A plan for the future might include:**

- ▶ A plan to address communication issues, including assisting faith groups and individuals interested in exchanging information and networking to continue to do so.
- ▶ A plan for notifying people who wish to order Pathways’ material or who have requests for other information about what will and will not be available.
- ▶ A plan for how the Pathways web site should be housed and maintained.
- ▶ A plan for the Pathways to Promise library of materials (videotapes, books, booklets, articles, display materials, etc.), the files, the computerized bibliography database, networking information, etc. The plan should address whether this material will be moved, moved to various locations, or disposed of.

If you have any suggestions for developing a mechanism to continue this work, please contact the Reverend Robert Dell, Chairman of the Board, Pathways to Promise, 5400 Arsenal Street, St. Louis, MO 63139; FAX is 314/644-8834; e-mail <pathways@inlink.com>. Reverend Dell will bring this information to the Board Committee that will be considering possible ways of continuing the work initiated by Pathways. Be assured that we will keep those of you who contact Pathways on this matter informed of what develops.

Stop the Stigma  
by Mary Hopkins

I would never blame the parents or family of a person who develops kidney disease.

I would never describe a person with Multiple Sclerosis as emotionally weak.

I have never heard a newscaster describe a violent criminal as slightly asthmatic.

I have never heard that a person with Arthritis has diminished learning and mental capacity.

I have never asked a Cancer patient to “snap out of it”.

I never describe a person with a heart disease as lazy because of the limitations of their illness.

I would never fear a Diabetic because s/he might be contagious.

I would never say that a person with Leukemia is to blame for their own illness.

I would never expect to attend a movie at a theater that is based on the unusual antics of a person with Cerebral Palsy.

It is, after all, the year 2000 and we are far more knowledgeable and sophisticated than ever before. I would wager that you would never make judgements, either.

But I live with a mental illness and all of the above have been attributed to me and to others in the same situation.

*Reprinted, with permission, from the “Kentucky Psychiatrist”, Winter, 1999.*

## Can You Help the National Conference of Viet Nam Veteran Ministers?

By the Reverence Jackson H. Day,  
Executive Director, National Conference of  
Viet Nam Veteran Ministers

The National Conference of Viet Nam Veteran Ministers (NCVNVM) is working on a grant-funded project called "Pastoral Care for Trauma Survivors." This project includes all trauma survivors (survivors of combat, child abuse, domestic violence, rape, terrorism, etc.) whether or not a person has actually been diagnosed with PTSD. The intent is to find ways that congregations or synagogues can be more supportive places for people with PTSD and others who are trauma survivors.

NCVNVM is particularly interested in discovering things faith groups and individual congregations have done right. I would be very grateful for the chance to be in contact with trauma survivors who have had positive experiences with churches. If you are such a person, could you contact me by e-mail at <jacksonday@home.com> or by mail at 11892 Blue February Way, Columbia, MD 21044. Let me know whether you are a trauma survivor and whether you have been diagnosed with PTSD, and share with me the positive experience you had and what in your estimation made it particularly positive. Please also let me know if your information is to be kept confidential. If you know of someone else who fits this description, I'd be grateful if you would pass this message on to them.

I am a firm believer that while we should always pay attention to our mistakes, it is often what we are doing right that can really teach us and help others.

### Surgeon General's Report is a Valuable Tool

Surgeon General David Satcher, M.D. issued a report on mental health in December 1999. The report said that "mental disorders are not character flaws but are legitimate illnesses that respond to specific treatments, just as other health conditions respond to medical interventions." It went on to say that "society can no longer afford to view mental health as separate and unequal to general health." This report noted that 22 percent of the population in the United States has a diagnosable mental disorder. It also says that mental illness, including suicide, is the second leading cause of disability, behind heart disease.

The report encourages people to seek treatment. However,

it points out that many people do not seek treatment for the following reasons: they have no health insurance, their insurance does not adequately cover the costs, or they have an "unwarranted sense of hopelessness" about the prospects of recovery from mental illness. Mental disorders affect nearly one in five people in the United States. However, almost half of those with severe mental illness do not seek treatment. The report goes on to say that people with mental health problems

can live happier and more productive lives with the help of therapy and medication.

The report highlights several other facts:

- ▶ Psychiatric disorders appear in all types of families and in all social classes and backgrounds.
- ▶ One in five children experiences the signs and symptoms of a diagnosable mental disorder in the course of a year.
- ▶ Among Americans age 18 to 54: 14.9 percent have anxiety disorders; 7.1 percent have mood disorders (depression or bipolar disorder); and 1.3 percent have schizophrenia.
- ▶ Eight to 15 percent of people over 65 years of age have symptoms of depression which often goes undiagnosed and untreated.
- ▶ Treatment for mental disorders cost \$69 billion in the United States in 1996, the last year figures were available.

This report provides information to use in raising awareness and improving understanding about mental illness. Free copies of the report can be accessed at: <www.surgeongeneral.gov>, or ordered from the Government Printing Office at 202/512-1800 for \$51.00.



## Mark Your Calendar

**June 9-11:** Mennonite Mutual Aid will sponsor two family retreats. The first will be at Bluffton College in Bluffton, Ohio. The second will be held at Camp Swatara in Bethel, Pennsylvania on **October 6-8**. For further information and/or brochures about the retreats contact the Stewardship Education Center at 800/348-7468.

**June 14-18:** The National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI) Convention will be held at the Town & Country Resort Hotel, 500 Hotel Circle North, San Diego, California. Among several symposia offered on Saturday,

June 17 will be one on "Spirituality and Mental Illness". For further information contact NAMI, Colonial Place Three, 2107 Wilson Blvd., Suite 300, Arlington, VA 22201-3042; (703) 524-7600; <www.nami.org >.

**September-April:** The Pastoral Care Services of Brook Lane Health Services is offering a series of teleconference luncheons for 2000-2001. The theme is "The Challenges of Pastoral Care and Counseling". The format includes a full lunch, a presentation via teleconference, a Q&A with the presenter, and discussion time for participants the subject of the day. The fee is \$15/session or \$50 for all four. Dates and topics are as follows:

- ▶ "The Messiah Trap: Knowing the Limits of Being a Change Agent", Leslie Hollah, Ph.D., September 21
- ▶ "Responding to the Hidden Face of Shame", Roger Sider, M.D., November 16

- ▶ "When Moral Positions Collide", Marcus Smucker, Ph.D., February 15
- ▶ "When Addictions Come to the Church", Howard Clinebell, Ph.D., April 19

For further information contact Pastoral Care Services, Brook Lane Health Services, P.O. Box 1945, Hagerstown, MD 21742; 800/342-2292; FAX 301/773-4038.

**October 22-24:** Canadian Mennonite Health Assembly (CMHA) will meet in British Columbia at the Delta Pacific in Richmond. The theme will be "The Mosaic of Christian Health Care: Honoring the Past, Managing the Present, Facing the Future". The Mental Health and Disability time at the conference will be Sunday, October 22 from 2-5 p.m. and Tuesday, October 24 from 1:30 to 4:00 p.m. For further information contact Irma Janzen, MCC Canada; 204/261-6381; e-mail is <ikj@mennonitecc.ca> or Eugene P. Klassen at MCCSCS 604/850-0458, ext. 310; e-mail: <gene@mccscs.com>. For information regarding the entire conference, contact Gerald Neufeld at Menno Hospital, Abbotsford, 604/859-7631.



*Correction:* In an article in the Winter, 2000 Pathways Newsletter there is incorrect contact for the Mennonite Central Committee of Canada Supportive Care Services. The e-mail address is read: <ikj@mennonitecc.ca>.

*Resurrecting the Person: A Friendship Model of Care for*

*People with Mental Health Problems and Their Families* by John Swinton will be published by Abingdon Press in the fall of 2000. It provides a Christian rationale, drawing on many principles of liberation theology, for the church to reach out to people with mental illness and their families. The author develops a model of mental health care which respects and acknowledges the important contributions the whole church community can make. There is an excellent overview of how mental illness impacts the person and the family, the historical response of society to mental illness, the consequences of deinstitutionalization, and the current status of community care. While acknowledging that cure is important, the author shifts the focus of mental health care toward an emphasis on relationships, critical solidarity, liberation, and care. He provides innovative, practical models of care for people with mental illness and their families that can assist congregations in developing caring ministries. This comprehensive book not only issues a well developed challenge to the church to respond to those impacted by mental illness, but it also proposes ways for the church to meet the challenge.

*Mental Illness Worship Resource*, compiled and edited by Christopher L. Smith, was published in 1999 by the Presbyterian

Serious Mental Illness Network in cooperation with the Office of Health Ministries, USA. of the Presbyterian Church (USA). It is a resource that contains a variety of step-by step worship services designed to assist Presbyterians to include issues of mental illness in the worship life of the congregations. To order, call 800/524-2612 and ask for PDS# 72-660-99-015.

*In the Shadow of God's Wings* by Susan Gregg-Schroeder was published by Upper Room Books in Nashville, Tennessee in 1997. The book describes the author's experiences as a church pastor, provides insights on living with depression, and discusses depression and spirituality. A study guide is available to provide small group leaders with information about depression, coping strategies for families, and a bibliography and a list of helping agencies. It also provides a four-session study program as well as a weekend retreat model. Both resources are available from Upper Room Books at: 800/972-0433.

*Mennonite Mutual Aid* has two resources in development

- ▶ Crystal Horning, the Mental Health Coordinator for Mennonite Mutual Aid, is working with a Mennonite publishing company to publish a children's book, *Mommy Didn't Get Up This Morning*, which they hope to publish in the year 2000. This book focuses on a child's response to a mother who struggles with clinical depression.
- ▶ Ms. Horning also is developing a pamphlet, *A Christian Response to Mental Illness*. This pamphlet includes facts about mental illness, personal stories, and addresses the question of whether or not mental illness is caused by sin. For further information contact: Crystal Horning, M.S., N.C.C., Mental Health Coordinator, Mennonite Mutual Aid, 901 Parkwood Drive, Harrisonburg, VA 22801-2498; 800/442-7930; e-mail: <mmacrystal@aol.com>.

*Essential Guide to Depression* edited by Angela R. Perry was published by Pocket Books in 1998. It describes depression for people with the illness, family members and friends. Information is included on what depression is and its causes and treatments, a list of the symptoms of depression and mania, and questions about health history to use before seeing a doctor. Also included is a resource list and a glossary of terms.

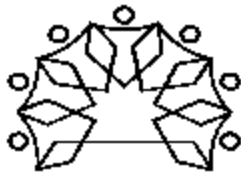
*When Madness Comes Home: Help and Hope for Children, Siblings, and Partners of the Mentally Ill* by Victoria Secunda was published by Hyperion in 1997. It focuses on the needs of family members of people with mental illness and ways to respond.

*Jewish Customs and Practices: A Resource Guide for Residential Staff* was published in 1994 by the Jewish Family Services in Baltimore. It is available from Jewish Family Services, 5750 Park Heights Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21215.

*Patterns of Alcohol Use Among Adolescents and Associations with Emotional and Behavioral Problems*, is a study that shows that adolescents, age 12 to 17, who use alcohol are more likely to report behavioral problems, especially aggressive, delinquent

and criminal behaviors. Study findings are based on a sample of 18,000 adolescents who participated in the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) 1994, 1995 and 1996 National Household Surveys on Drug Abuse. The report concludes that there is a strong relationship between alcohol use among youth and many emotional and behavioral problems, including fighting, stealing, driving under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs, skipping school, feeling depressed, and deliberately trying to hurt or kill themselves. For a copy of the study, contact the National Clearinghouse for Alcohol and Drug Information (NCADI), P.O. Box 2345, Rockville, MD 20847-2345; 800/729-6686; or access electronically at <www.samsha.gov> and then click on NCADI.

*Violence in Homes and Communities: Prevention, Intervention and Treatment* edited by Thomas Gullotta and Sandra McElhaney was published by the National Mental Health Association (NMHA) in 1999. It examines the causes and effects of violence in the lives of children and families; explains how advocates can help prevent violence; and has a chapter on the stigmatizing myth of a link between mental illnesses and violent behavior. The NMHA has also published new child mental health fact sheets, including one on children's mental health statistics. To order these resources, contact the NMHA Information Center at 800/969-6642 or go to <www.nmha.org>.



## Network News

**The Episcopal Mental Illness Network (EMIN)** has 425 active members. EMIN publishes a semiannual newsletter and plans to have a presence at the General Convention of the Episcopal Church this summer in Denver. EMIN will share space with the Episcopal Disability Network. For further information contact Caroline Stevenson, 5125 Stonewall Rd., Little Rock, AR 72207-4519; e-mail is <CBsteven@aol.com>.

**The United Methodist Church (UMC):** Mental illness was the topic of a feature article in the *Interpreter*, a periodical that has nationwide distribution to members of the UMC. On the regional front, the Baltimore-Washington Conference held a group session on mental illness as part of the "Leadership Days" activities. The Pathways' exhibit, *Brain Matters*, was also used at a regional meeting in this Conference. For further information on how this office can work with your Conference contact: Lois Clinton, Program Director, Ministry of God's Human Community, General Board of Church & Society, United Methodist Church, 100 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, DC 20002, 202/488-5636; e-mail is <lclinton@umc.gbcs.org>.

**Presbyterian Serious Mental Illness Network (PSMIN):** The Presbyterian Church (USA) has chosen "The Year of the Child"

as a focus area. To coordinate with this, PSMIN will offer new posters, bulletin inserts, and other resource materials highlighting children's mental illness for "Mental Illness Sunday, 2000" in October. At General Assembly (June 24-July 1) PSMIN will again sponsor the NARSAD art display exhibit and, for the first time, will present a

Congregational Award for noteworthy actions/ministries for and with persons with mental illness.

Other actions planned for the year include:

- ▶ Advocacy issues that will target the selection process for clergy, insurance parity within the church plan and the nation, and anti-stigma efforts;
- ▶ working with ACSWP on a new mental illness policy statement;
- ▶ publishing newsletters;
- ▶ planning for the PSMIN workshop at the Presbyterian Health, Education, and Welfare Association (PHEWA) Biennial in January 2001,
- ▶ and diversifying membership.

For further information contact: David Zuverink, Associate for Human Services, Social Justice and Peace Making Unit, Presbyterian Church (USA), 100 Witherspoon Street, Room 3041, Louisville, KY 40202-1396; 502/569-5793; e-mail is: <davez@ctr.pcusa.org>.

**Christian Reformed Church in America (CRCA):** The CRCA Mental Illness Network has a newsletter, *The Promise*, which goes out four times a year. Currently, there are three support groups operating in the Michigan area. The *Breaking Down Barriers* newsletter (circulation 29,000) is a general disabilities newsletter that will have a mental illness emphasis in a coming issue. For further information contact: James Vanderlaan, Director, Committee on Disability Concerns, 2850 Kalamazoo Ave., S.E., Grand Rapids, MI 49560; 616/ 246-0808; e-mail is: <vanderli@crcna.org>.

**The Lutheran Network on Mental Illness and Brain Disorders** reports the following:

- ▶ Members of the network met in Chicago in May.
- ▶ A mental illness curriculum is being developed by the network that will be finalized in 2000.
- ▶ A brochure has been developed for use and distribution in any Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) or Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LC-MS) congregation or organization.
- ▶ The "ELCA Message on Suicide Prevention" which was adopted by the Church Council in November, 1999 is available for distribution.

For further information contact: The Reverend Lois T. Cleaver, Director, Ministry with Persons with Handicapping Conditions, Evangelical Lutheran Church, 8765 West Higgins Rd., Chicago, IL 60631; 800/638-3522, ext. 2692; e-mail is: <lcleavor@elca.org>.

**The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LC-MS)** is developing a large display on health and wellness for the LC-MS

Convention, July 13-20th, 2001. LC-MS expects to request use of the Pathways display, *Brain Matters*, at this event. For further information contact the Reverend Bruce Hartung, Ph.D., Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod Health Ministries, 1333 South Kirkwood Road, St. Louis, MO 63122; 314/965-9917, ext. 1396; e-mail: <bruce.hartung@lcms.org>.

**United Church of Christ Mental Illness Network (UCCMIN)** reports the following:

- ▶ The UCCMIN Spring 2000 Newsletter contained a variety of materials to use during Mental Health Month, Mental Illness Awareness Week and Disabilities Awareness week. Materials included a poster, a worship service, and a bulletin insert.
- ▶ The Fall 1999 issue of *Common Lot* (published by the UCC Coordinating Center for Women) contains articles about mental illness which include first person stories, definitions, and available resources.
- ▶ At the July 1 Denominational Restructuring Planning Meeting, mental illness ministry will be a significant issue.
- ▶ A copy of the General Synod XXII Resolution, "Calling the People of God to Justice for Persons with Serious Mental Illnesses (Brain Disorder)" is available for download from the UCC home page at <www.ucc.org/synod/gs/22/pdf>.

For further information on the UCCMIN contact: The Reverend Robert Dell, 414 East Pleasant Avenue, Sandwich, IL 60548; 815/786-6341; e-mail is: <BOB\_DELL@ecunet.org>, or contact Barbara Baylor at 216/736-3272; e-mail is: <bbaylor@ucc.org>.

### **United Methodists Are Encouraged To Request Mental Illness Ministries From Their Conference Office**

by Margaret Ann Holt  
Virginia Interfaith Committee  
on Mental Illness Ministries (VICOMIM)

The General Conference of the United Methodist Church (UMC) passed a resolution (adopted May, 1992) calling churches in every community to participate actively in expanding care for mentally ill persons and their families and communities. All United Methodism (local churches, districts, and annual conferences) were asked to support community and congressional programs. ("Ministries on Mental Illness", *The Book of Resolutions 1992*, page 313)

The United Methodist Church has a ready-made structure in place for mental illness ministries to implement this 1992

Resolution. In response to it, on March 2, 1994 the General Board of Church and Society released the request to ask each annual conference to identify a Coordinator for Mental Illness Ministries. For any member of the UMC who does not know about mental illness ministries within their own UMC Conference, I urge them to call their conference office to talk to the Coordinator for Mental Illness Ministries. If such a position does not yet exist, request that such a Coordinator be appointed immediately.

This ministry could provide, at the very least, a congregational prayer, once a year, on behalf of persons with specific mental illnesses mentioned from the pulpit (which "breaks the silence" and gives permission to utter words like schizophrenia, depression, and bi-polar within the sanctuary). This ministry could also provide a course of training on mental illness ministry at the Lay Speaking Ministries School each year. In order to qualify to be a Lay Speaker, the individual must renew their status periodically, and they are required to take Continuing Education Units to maintain their status. The March Lay Speaker's School is the way the Virginia Annual Conference UMC provides for those CEU requirements.

For the last three years, VICOMIM has been helpful in providing training at that school on the subject of mental illness ministries within the local church. For Lay Speaking Ministries School 2001 we will be providing a complete course for ten hours for one Continuing Education Unit on that subject. This would be a natural progression within UMC Conference structures to provide training and would not cost the church anything extra!

You can contact Margaret Ann Holt at: 906 Carol Lane, Fredericksburg, VA 22405-1618; e-mail is <bluebonnet99\_99@yahoo.com>.



The Health And Welfare Division of the California-Pacific (CAL-PAC) Conference of The United Methodist Church and the National Alliance For The Mentally Ill (NAMI) presented a one-day seminar in April concerning the impact of mental illness on the individual and the family. The goals of the seminar were to "break the silence" in the church regarding mental illness, learning how to recognize serious mental illness, and what clergy and laity can do to support the individual and their family. The event was for clergy and concerned laity involved in providing pastoral care within congregations. Speakers included Cal-Pac Conference Bishop, Roy I. Sano, who spoke about his family's personal experience with a mentally ill member; Jane Hull-Harvey, Assistant General Secretary of the United Methodist Church, General Board of Church and Society, who spoke about her son who suffered with chronic depression and finally committed suicide; Dr. Michael Di Paolo who provided information on the biochemical aspects of mental illness; and actress Mariette Hartley, a member of Westwood UMC, who spoke on her family's struggle with her father's alcoholism and depression and resulting suicidal death which is chronicled in her book, *Breaking the Silence*.

**Visions for Tomorrow** is a program for caregivers of children with brain disorders that was held in Tulsa by the Oklahoma Conference of the United Methodist Church Board of Church and Society and the Local Church Mental Illness Network (LCMIN) in cooperation with the Oklahoma National Alliance for the Mentally Ill. This free course is designed to assist parents and professionals in gaining skills to work with severely emotionally disturbed (SED) children. Topics covered are: types of SED; medications and the affect on the child; and how to effectively communicate with SED children and their school. The course was offered at the Faith United Methodist Church in Tulsa on two Saturday mornings. For further information contact Bargara Schneeberg at 918/252-2966 or <harryjs@juno.com> or contact Pam Bucher at NAMI Oklahoma at 800/645-5437.

**Virginia Interfaith Committee on Mental Illness Ministries Workshop on Mental Illness Ministries (VICOMIM)** sponsored a day-long workshop on the subject of mental illness ministries in May. Fifty-five clergy and laity attended. The workshop offered ½CEU (Continuing Education Unit). It consisted of four parts: describing ministries existing in Virginia, hearing how those ministries are supported by structure and funding, brain-storming to design an effective network of interfaith ministries relating to mental illness, and concluding with a covenant of "Creating a Circle of Caring." For further information contact VICOMIM, c/o St. Matthias UMC, 426 Deacon Road, Fredericksburg, VA 22405.

The **Interfaith Communities in Action of Hilo, Hawaii** co-sponsored with Hawaii County Community Mental Health Center and the State Adult Mental Health Division, a series of eight workshops, "A Caring Response to Persons Living with Mental Illness" in 1999. It also held a two hour sharing and informational gathering that included a prayer

vigil in May, 2000 on behalf of persons living with mental illness, their families and caregivers. Catholic, Protestant, Jewish and Buddhist communities are part of this organization. For further information contact: Ronald G. Kent, Pastor, Hilo Coast United Church of Christ, P.O. Box 217, Old Mamalahoa Highway, Honomu, HI 96728, 808/963-6330, e-mail is <rgk@aloha.net>.

The **Mennonite C. C. in British Columbia** has programs serving people with developmental disabilities, mental illness, a brain injury, and seniors. The programs

for people with mental illness began in 1992 and are administered through the MCC Support Care Services. A new program assists people with mental illness to learn to live on their own in an apartment during a one to two year period. For information contact Eugene P. Klassen, Administrator/Financial Resources Developer, MCCSCS 604/850-0458, ext. 310; e-mail: <gene@mccscs.com>.

The **Westchester Division of New York-Presbyterian Hospital** offers a program to clergy that includes consultations, support, and referrals from mental health professionals. Dr. Glen Milstein, a psychology fellow at the hospital who developed the outreach program, said it would help patients by using the best of what both professions have to offer. He noted that one of the central struggles of psychiatry is that while effective treatments are available, they work only if the patient is willing to take the medications and otherwise adhere to a treatment plan. Clergy can provide a loving and supportive community for those who are suffering and can assist them in making sure they are taking prescribed medication and intervening early in the event of a relapse.

The hospital offers professional consultations, in which a clergy member can meet with hospital staff members to discuss congregants who are presenting challenges. The medical staff offers help on diagnosing the problem, language to use to help people get into treatment, signs and symptoms to be aware of, and contacts and telephone numbers to call in a crisis. Clergy who have taken part in the program said that another benefit is learning that others have faced similar problems with congregants such as those who knocked on their doors in the middle of the night, disrupted services, or kept them up nights with worry. *Excerpted form an article by Kate Stone Lombardi in The New York Times, April 30, 2000, Sunday, Late Edition - Final, Section 14WC; Page 1; Westchester Weekly Desk.*