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April 15, 2014

Dear ,

## Still Rocking After All These Years

50th and 60th Birthday Celebration and Fun-raiser



Mental Health America of Arizona and Mental Health Guild are hosting a birthday celebration on Friday, May 2nd from 5:30 to 10:30 pm at the Arizona Country Club, 5668 E. Orange Blossom Lane, Phoenix to mark the 60th and 50th year of their founding. Unbelievable!! Do you remember the number one song in May 1954 or May 1964?

Join us for "Those Were the Days", a walk down memory lane, and a celebration of the progress we've made in Arizona for individuals and families with a mental illness. The evening will include dinner, a no-host bar, dancing, silent auction, exhibits, birthday toasts and live entertainment. Casual or period attire is welcome for a fun evening with your friends and colleagues. Anybody got a poodle skirt or love beads in the back of the closet?

Reservations are **required**, with the Early Bird price expiring on **April 15th** (that's today). Take advantage of

the \$75 per person registration fee **today!** The fee goes to \$100 per person **after** April 15th. You **NEED** to act today!! You can purchase your tickets by credit card at this [link](#) or by mailing a check payable to MHA/MHG to RL Peterson, 7928 E. Sage Dr., Scottsdale 85250.

We want to acknowledge and thank our Platinum Sponsors including Mercy Care Plan, Mercy Maricopa Integrated Care, and Cenpatico of Arizona. Our Gold Sponsors are Recovery Innovations and Recovery Opportunity Center and Community Partnership of Southern Arizona. Jewish Family and Children's Services, Johnson and Johnson, and Banner Behavioral Health Hospital are our Silver Sponsors. The Bronze Sponsors are Lilly USA, Bloom Dispensaries, Magellan of Arizona, Sunovion and Arizona Foundation for Behavioral Health. FNF Construction, Inc., PSA Behavioral Health Agency, Quality Care Network, Marc Community Resources, Inc., and Arizona Children's Association are among our other sponsors.

It isn't too late to become a sponsor or a table host. Contact Cheryl Collier at [cheryl.collier@mhguild.org](mailto:cheryl.collier@mhguild.org) or 602-284-0619 if you'd like to be one of our sponsors.

Join us for this joyful and memorable occasion.

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### **Legislative Session Draws to a Close**



At this moment, we don't know the exact day or the hour, but it looks like the legislature will adjourn *sine die* before the next edition of this newsletter is distributed. The promise of resolving the child protective services crisis last fall will not be addressed during the regular session. It is anticipated that the Governor will

issue a call for a special session in May. Because of the complexity of the child welfare issues, let's hope the proposals being developed by the Child Advocate Response Examination (CARE) Team can assure the future well-being of children. Arizona does not need to have another headline disclosing over 6,500 CPS cases not investigated.

The budget was signed after several days of controversy and ultimately a compromise. When the Special Session on child welfare is called, the programs or services expected to be outlined probably will have an impact on children's behavioral health services, making it important to stay tuned on that front for the coming months.

In the meantime, let's highlight here the impact the budget has upon the behavioral health community.

#### **AHCCCS:**

- The only expansion of the service array authorized was to cover insulin pumps, and the agency was charged with absorbing any costs. Despite lengthy debates, adult emergency dental care, orthotics, chiropractic care with an annual cap and podiatry care were ultimately not included.
- Using the budget process to eliminate or freeze membership populations was not on the radar this session.

#### **DHS:**

- \$300,000 has been allocated for multidisciplinary grants to middle and high schools to promote positive life choices and educational prevention around substance abuse, violence and mental health.
- \$250,000 for mental health first aid was continued, with the funds being dedicated for training-the-trainer.
- State funding for non-Title 19 SMI populations was continued at the current level of \$16.4 M for crisis services, \$5.3 M for housing and \$78.8 M for services
- The Arnold v Sarn footnote was modified to

require DHS to report on progress toward meeting criteria outlined in the 2014 Joint Stipulation.

- The budget declares the legislative intent for DHS to increase provider rates by 2% by October 1st.

**DES:** (this does not outline the changes in child welfare line items)

- \$1 M for Arizona Early Intervention Program (the interagency program providing supports & services for infants & toddlers with developmental delays or disabilities)
- \$3.0 M for additional staff for adult protective services
- \$300,000 for a rural autism parenting skills program
- \$500,000 for a homeless capital grant program

For details around the child welfare issues, I urge you to signup with the Children's Action Alliance for their alerts. Go to their [website](#) and complete their "Get Connected and Stay Engaged" form on the right hand side of the home page.

Are there any other issues awaiting final action? As Mark Twain has noted, "No man's life, liberty, or property are safe while the legislature is in session."

Here are examples of the bills that are still on the "radar screen":

- **HB 2508** dealing with the licensure of Affordable Care Act navigators and certified application counselors is awaiting action by the Senate.
- **HB 2367** relating AHCCCS; annual waiver submittals (with a push to have time limits on AHCCCS for able-bodied adults). Is awaiting final action by the Senate with anticipation that this bill will be passed.
- **SB 1077**, relating to behavioral health professions licensure which would make technical changes to allow for reciprocal license recognition, is on our watch list because of its impact on the workforce.
- **HB 2531**, dealing with who pays for court-ordered evaluation services, is awaiting final

action by the House.

"It ain't over 'til the fat lady sings" is yet another truism for legislative sessions. Arizona saw what became known as the alt fuels crisis because of actions taken in the waning hours of session. We will provide you a final update next month.

Don't forget to thank your legislators if they supported your priorities this session. Send out those thank-you notes soon.

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### **Meet Audrey Ozols**



Audrey Ozols has twenty five years of experience in the US health care system leading businesses in the life science and medical technology through the regulatory approval process and delivering access through engaging Federal, State, and Private health care authorities.

Audrey brings personal and professional experience with behavioral health issues to her work at Mental Health of America of Arizona. She lived with and loved her father who suffered from bipolar disorder for over 30 years, which ended in suicide.

As a mother of two girls with mental disorders, Audrey again faces behavioral health challenges within her own family. Through the ups and downs of mental disease at home and from her professional experience in public policy, she has a burning passion to help the behavioral health community gain better access to quality care, and to live a life with dignity, love, and hope.

Join us in welcoming Audrey to our ranks and to the work we have yet to do.

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### **Coming Events**

Time to find your appointment calendar and make a selection among some interesting events in the coming

weeks.

**Tuesday, April 22nd, 6-8 pm**, "Understanding Serious Mental Illness & the Determination Process for Services" with Dr. Laurie Ramsbacher, Cepatico's Chief Medical Officer, The Center, Multipurpose Room, 2066 W. Apache Trail, Apache Junction, hosted by Family & Friends Together.

**Thursday, April 24th, 6-8 pm**, "Reaching Agreement: How much supportive involvement is enough-when is it too much?", Casa Grande Alliance, 901 E. Cottonwood Ln, Suite C, Casa Grande, hosted by Family & Friends Together.

**May 2014, Mind Your Health** is this year's theme for **Mental Health Month**. Join in celebrating this month.

**Friday, May 2nd, 8 am-5 pm**, "Let's Get Better Together Conference", hosted by the LGBTQ Coalition of Southern Arizona & the LGBT Consortium, Hilton Tucson El Conquistador Golf & Tennis Resort, 10000 N. Oracle Rd., Tucson. Registration required. Click [here](#).

**July 15-18th, 15th Annual Summer Institute**, Prescott Resort, Prescott. Early Bird Registration \$375 (thru May 2nd) & \$475 regular fee. Register [here](#).

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We invite your participation and sharing of this newsletter by forwarding to your friends and colleagues. If they wish to receive the free newsletter, encourage them to simply click on the link [here](#). Let's share the word. Let's get involved.

Eddie L. Sissons  
Executive Consultant



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\* Email Address

First Name

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