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May 15, 2014

Dear ,

"THOSE WERE THE DAYS"

Birthday Party on May 2nd for MHA-AZ & MHG a Big Hit

Nearly 200 people enjoyed a really fun night celebrating the 50th and 60th birthdays of the Mental Health Guild (MHG) & Mental Health America of Arizona (MHA-AZ) on May 2, 2014, at the beautiful Arizona Country Club. Special recognition goes to long time MHG members Mary and Gary Keltner who made the evening possible at this beautiful location in East Phoenix. Thank you to all who attended including the honorable Secretary of State Ken Bennett, Representative Lela Alston, District 24, Justice of the Peace Keith Frankel and, of course, Marilyn and Elvis!

Thanks to our many sponsors who helped raise almost \$70,000 for the two oldest mental health education and advocacy organizations in Arizona. Platinum Sponsors were Cenpatico & Mercy Care Plan / Mercy Maricopa Integrated Care (MMIC). Gold Sponsors were Recovery Innovations / Recovery Opportunity Center and CPSA (Community Partnership of Southern Arizona). Silver Sponsors included Jewish Family & Children's Services, Johnson & Johnson, Banner Behavioral Health Hospital and Lifewell Behavioral Wellness. Bloom Dispensaries, Magellan of Arizona, Sunovion, Arizona Foundation for Behavioral Health, Lilly USA and Southwest Network made up our Bronze Sponsors. Sponsors' exhibit tables provided information, giveaways and opportunities for prizes.

We'd also like to recognize over a dozen other companies and individuals who chipped in to show their support for MHA & MHG. Thanks to FNF Construction, PSA Behavioral Health Agency & Art Awakenings, Quality Care Network, Marc Community Resources, AZ Council of Human Service Providers, AZ Psychiatric Society, Meritus, Reuben B Gonzales Insurance Agency, AZ Children's Association, Choices Network of AZ, Community Bridges, Jason Bernstein & friends, B.J. Lynch, Cheryl Collier, Dora Kolkhorst and

Joyce Geysler. Table hosts included Marcia Larmore, Jane Evans, Ruth Kassner, Audrey Ozols, Dora Kolkhorst, Cheryl Collier and Empowerment Systems. Over 50 items had also been donated and were available for silent bidding throughout the evening. Please say thanks to these generous sponsors, donors, table hosts and the volunteers who made the evening a success!

Marty Manning from KEZ, 99.9 Clear Channel Radio, was one of those volunteers and he kicked off the evening with a reminder that May is Mental Health Awareness Month, noting that a proclamation had been so issued by Governor Jan Brewer. He also kept us on track on raffle winners during the evening while sharing some of his personal insight into the importance of mental health. Videographer and long time volunteer of MHA, Ken Conry, put together a slide show that included photos of newsprint on how the mental health system looked back in the 50s and 60s and why and how MHA began, including the start of the first adult outpatient clinic in Arizona made possible by MHA. Glimpses of the mental health movers and shakers and those once familiar faces from the past 60 years were really fun.

Speaking of shaking, some special celebrity guests joined the party including the amazing Marilyn Monroe (Cynthia Larmore) and Elvis Presley (Wade Hardie) who entertained the audience with a unique rendition of Happy Birthday to Mr. MHA President Jack Beveridge & Ms. MHG President Cheryl Collier. Elvis & Marilyn were adorned by the generous donations of Marcia Larmore and Mardi Gras Costumes. Don Eddy, of Kathy & Don, Partners in Song, played great tunes and even took requests from the 50s and 60s throughout the evening. William Florian, former lead singer of The New Christy Minstrels, provided an entertaining concert with a walk down music memory lane, "Those Were the Days," made possible by a generous anonymous donor.

MHG volunteers under the direction of Jane Evans and Dora Kolkhorst decorated the grand ballroom like the 50s with red, black and white balloons, 45rpm records and vintage car centerpieces filled with gumballs and candy cigarettes at every table. The silent auction challenged guests to overbid their friends and wonderful memorabilia adorned the rooms, including two fully dressed mannequins in period clothing, provided by Bertie's Restaurant of Arcadia.

A delicious All-American Buffet with grilled chicken, burgers, hotdogs, Portobello mushrooms and salads were served before the ice cream sundae bar opened and a special birthday cake presentation was made. Cake for Causes donated the delicious

layered cake and cupcakes, each decorated with a 50s & 60s theme and prepared by the talented Kim Crapps. Watch for great photos soon to be shared by volunteer photographer, Chelly Gallagher and her assistant Melissa Rudd.

Sue Gilbertson, Patsy Kelly, Jack Beveridge and Audrey Ozols were on the planning committee led by MHG Event Chair Marcia Larmore and Event Chair Cheryl Collier. Marcia deserves thanks and praise for all she did, especially putting the fun into FUNdraising! Thanks to Roberta Peterson, Eddie Sissons, Dora Kolkhorst, Sandy McAdams, Jane Evans, Beverly Schleigh, Marlin Fried, Ruth Kassner, Dana Faris, Maria Maldonado and all the great volunteers, sponsors and everyone who attended!

It was a great night and a rare privilege to have so many mental health supporters in one room just to rock 'n roll and have some fun together! It was also a reunion of not just many old friends and colleagues, but of MHA-AZ & MHG working together again after so many years apart. Thanks to your support, after expenses are paid, each organization will receive over \$25,000 to help them continue their valuable work of promoting the importance of good mental health and a system of care that is responsive and appropriate for those in need! Please become members and stay in touch with what's coming next. Visit our websites at <http://www.mhaarizona.org> & <http://www.mentalhealthguild.org>.

Cheryl Collier started with MHA as a volunteer in 1978 and worked for them for 24 years until depression forced her to retire from her position as Executive Director in 2002. She came out of retirement in 2012 to assist in strengthening MHA and MHG. She currently serves as a volunteer on the MHA of AZ Board of Directors and is President of the MHG. She can be reached by email at Cheryl.Collier@MHGuild.org



The 2nd Regular Session of the 51st legislature began on January 13th and adjourned sine die on April 24th at 1:46 am. The legislature adjourned on the 101st day of session. A total of 1,205 bills and another 113 resolutions, memorials, or referrals were introduced, but only 280 were passed, of which 255 were signed into law. The Governor vetoed a total of 25 bills and imposed 3 line item vetoes on the budget.

There were a variety of issues considered and debated with some winners, and many that escaped to fight another day.

In the April edition of this newsletter the state budget was summarized, so we'll move along to the policy issues this session. Yes, there was a movement among some members of the legislature to repeal Medicaid expansion passed last legislative session, but that bill (**HB 2234**) did not clear the House of Representatives. **HB 2367** was introduced and did make it all the way to the Governor's office, but she vetoed the bill. This would have instituted a requirement that able-bodied state Medicaid (AHCCCS) recipients would need to be employed or seeking employment in order to receive services. It would also establish a five-year lifetime limit for recipients and establish co-pays. This bill was patterned after a recently submitted waiver from Pennsylvania. It is likely that the federal government will not approve that waiver.

On the ACA (Obamacare) front, **HB 2508** was indeed passed and signed into law. This will now impose licensure requirements by the Arizona Department of Insurance on Navigators and Certified Applications Counselors (the trained staff who provide assistance to individuals enrolling in the Marketplace health plans). The insurance brokers seemed worried that Navigators and CACs would be stealing identities or other bad acts. In the future, folks will need to undergo a criminal records check.

Last year's omnibus bill on behavioral health professional licensure needed a few tweaks to resolve unanticipated glitches. The Arizona Council of Human Service Providers sought and got **SB 1077** passed to allow for reciprocal license recognition by the Board of Behavioral Health Examiners.

Another key bill for the provider community was **SB 1216** dealing with health care institution licensure and regulation. The Department of Health Services was authorized to adopt regulations that would resolve issues that had arisen as behavioral and physical health providers were co-locating as integration is promoted. This bill was signed and progress is being made as the system of care evolves.

Two bills addressed scope of practice which may be of interest. **HB 2172** made a host of changes, but of particular interest in Arizona is the ability to require the Board of Psychological Examiners to establish rules to allow for telepractice, and changes made relating to supervision. **HB 2173** was signed into law that will require the Board of Psychological Examiners to adopt standards consistent with those set by a nationally recognized behavior analyst certification board, with some exceptions.

Due to ongoing concerns about the safety of individuals and shootings, various bills were introduced to control who possesses guns and to the court evaluation process. Bills that sought to control possession of guns mostly didn't make it through the process. **HB 2322** now requires courts to send information to the Department of Public Safety when a person is found to be incompetent, is subsequently found competent or is found guilty except insane by the court. The information is then sent to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System. The bill expanded the list of individuals who are "prohibited possessors" of guns to include those found incompetent and those found guilty except insane.

Other criminal justice bills included: 1) **HB 2105** was signed into law that allows a police officer to take an individual into custody if there's reasonable cause to believe that the person is a danger to self or others. This removed the requirement that the officer observe the behavior him/herself. 2) **HB 2457** which now allows a presiding judge in each county to set up veterans and mental health courts and the eligibility criteria for referrals to those courts. 3) **HB 2307** authorizes counties to establish county attorney deferred prosecution funds composed of county general funds, federal funds or public or private donations. The intent is to divert individuals into a program prior to a guilty plea or trial. The bill specified crimes that would not qualify for the deferred prosecution

program.

A special session on child welfare is anticipated for May without a clear date, at this time. We will update after that session.

Remember that this is an election year. If you're not registered, please do so. If you're registered, remember to vote in both the Primary and General Election. Get involved! The legislature will come back into their regular session in January 2015.

Coming Events

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

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

May 22nd, MHA-AZ will host a seminar on "**Living with my Health Plan from the Consumer's Perspective**", 9:30 am to Noon, ASU Downtown Phoenix Campus, NHI 2 Room 100, 550 N. 3rd St., Phoenix. **RSVP** is required by **May 20th** so send us a note by linking [here](#).

June 6th, Born to Thrive Conference hosted by the Arizona Children's Association, Black Canyon Conference Center, Phoenix. Early Bird fee is \$95 per person for professionals thru May 23rd. Go to [here](#) to get details.

July 15-18th, 15th Annual Summer Institute, Prescott Resort, Prescott. Regular registration is \$475. Register [here](#).

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
