Monday, November 7, 2005

12.15 - 2.00 pm
Millennium Room

Lunch and a Celebration of the WICHE Mental Health Program’s 50th Anniversary

Transforming Mental Health Care in America: Meeting the Challenge in the WICHE West

As the WICHE Mental Health Program celebrates its 50 years of service to the WICHE West, this luncheon talk and the following panel discussion will focus on the opportunities for transformation articulated in the final report of President Bush’s New Freedom Commission on Mental Health. Stephen Mayberg, California’s commissioner of mental health and a member of the New Freedom Commission, will discuss the commission’s challenge to the nation to improve systems of care for persons with mental health needs. During the panel discussion, immediately following lunch, WICHE’s former mental health director, Frank McGuirk, and Dennis Mohatt, the current director, will discuss the role the Mental Health Program has played and will play in the future in improving mental health services and workforce development.

Biographical Information on the Speakers

Stephen Mayberg, director of the California Department of Mental Health since 1993, has pursued an ambitious agenda that includes major initiatives to reform the mental health system. These reforms reflect changes based on programmatic research and program outcomes and accountability. Mayberg received his undergraduate degree from Yale University and his doctorate in clinical psychology from the University of Minnesota. He completed his internship at the University of California, Davis, and has worked for the California mental health system since that time. During his public service career, he has been an advocate for interagency programming and planning. In June 2002, he was appointed to President Bush’s New Freedom Commission on Mental Health. Mayberg’s primary interest has always been that of a clinician; throughout his career he has continued to provide clinical services.

Frank McGuirk has worked in leadership positions in human service agencies for over 25 years. He has provided consultation to projects focused on multisite evaluation, as well as formative evaluation and consultation on evaluation design and service delivery for state governments; American Indian tribes; the federal government; and HMOs. McGuirk’s career has included a range of senior administrative positions, including chief operating officer of a major urban mental health care delivery system, director of WICHE’s Mental Health Program, and other positions in hospital and clinic settings. He received his doctoral degree in psychology from Colorado State University. Since 2003 he has owned Design Mosaic, a management and strategic-planning consultancy for public and private-sector organizations. He is also a founder of TriWest Group, a national research and evaluation firm, and serves that organization in a senior advisor role.
Dennis Mohatt is the director of WICHE’s Mental Health Program. Prior to taking this post, he served in a number of other positions. He was deputy director for the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, where he was designated the state’s commissioner of mental health and provided leadership in the areas of public assistance, rural health, primary care, disabilities, and child welfare. He was also responsible for the administration of Nebraska’s public managed care initiatives in Medicaid for both physical and behavioral health. He has over a decade of experience in community mental health and provided executive leadership to a successful community mental health center in Michigan’s rural Upper Peninsula, as well as working on the integration of community mental health services with primary care in two rural family medicine practices. He served on the National Rural Health Advisory Committee to the United States Secretary of Health and Human Services from 1994 to 1998. Recently, he was the chief consultant to the Rural Issues Subcommittee of President Bush’s New Freedom Commission on Mental Health and lead author of the subcommittee report. His undergraduate training was at the University of Oregon. He received a National Institute of Mental Health training fellowship in rural mental health while at Mansfield University in Pennsylvania, where he received his master’s in rural community clinical psychology.

2.00 - 2.30 pm Break