Public/Community Psychiatry Track

UCSD psychiatry faculty has begun meeting with County Mental Health (CMH) leadership to discuss a partnership to meet the imposing public health challenges of caring for minority, un-served and under-served persons with chronic and severe mental disorders in San Diego. The state of public mental health services for chronically and severely mentally ill persons is a national and local embarrassment, and one of the most compelling remedies is to train skilled psychiatrists dedicated to public mental health in child, adult and geriatric populations. Thus, we propose a partnership with the CMH to provide training experiences and produce outstanding public/community psychiatrists in the following areas:

1) One public/community psychiatry track resident (PGY1-5) for 5 years training thru the UCSD Combined Family Medicine Psychiatry Program; the trainee will dedicate significant amounts of their training focused on providing service in county and community facilities as well as at St. Vincent’s de Paul and UCSD. 

2) One Community Geropsychiatry Track Resident (PGY-5) who will rotate thru a variety of community settings including the Heritage Clinic, the San Diego County Senior Evaluation Team, long-term care facilities such as Villa Rancho Bernardo, senior day programs such as the Glenner Center in Chula Vista, and the UCSD Geropsychiatry Inpatient Unit. 

3) Two Child Community Psychiatry Residents (PGY4-5) in each of 2 years of training in our Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Training Program. The program will focus on un-served and under-served populations (e.g., Latinos, the homeless and Transitional Age Youths) thru a variety of community agencies.

4) Two Adult Community Psychiatry Training Fellows (PGY4 or 5) specializing in Community Psychiatry/Public Service for the un-served and under-served adult population of San Diego.

Residents and Fellows in each of these programs will work closely with San Diego CMH, each other and other residents in the Combined Family Medicine and Psychiatry Program. He/she also will help enrich and upgrade public psychiatry literacy for all Psychiatric Residents at UCSD. To maximize the probability of these trainees remaining in the public sector, special care will be taken in recruiting trainees with special interests in community and public psychiatry, we will prioritize applicants from diverse racial and cultural backgrounds, and we will seek loan repayment incentives for post-training community service. By partnering with CMH on these important training priorities, the San Diego community will not only benefit from services provided to the training sites by trainees and expertise on public/community psychiatry brought to bare by faculty, but most important, by re-aligning the persistent and untenable imbalance of rising needs for psychiatric care versus diminishing availability of well-trained psychiatrists in the public sector.