

**Alcohol, Drug, and Mental Health Services
Staff Briefing
February 4, 2009**

Hello,

I am pleased to provide an update on the Special Mental Health Commission meeting held yesterday afternoon in Buellton. I would like to recognize the Mental Health Commission members for their strong interest in reaching out to people in the County.

The meeting was chaired by Margie Lopez, Chairperson of the Mental Health Commission. Over 80 consumers, family members, community members and organizations, and labor representatives attended the meeting. Many members of the community worked together to provide transportation to those wanting to attend this meeting.

The questions and comments presented during the meeting reflected a deep interest in the ADMHS service delivery system and funding. Concerns about the current State budget challenges were expressed. A number of individuals spoke about their own experiences, conveying in very personal ways, how access to mental health services, housing, employment and social supports makes a difference in people's lives. I was impressed by the very engaging and constructive dialogue.

A copy of the PowerPoint presented at yesterday's Special Mental Health Commission meeting has been posted on our ADMHS *Intranet* website http://admhs/News/news_special_index.asp under "News and Updates" with a flag titled "Special Briefing."

I look forward to staying in touch with you about other activities involving ADMHS, and I very much welcome the input of all our staff in ADMHS. As more information becomes available about the State budget, I will provide updates.

Best regards,

Ann
Ann Detrick
Director