

### **Ralph Buckley Audio 3 Transcription:**

The document is a poster of sorts advertising the coming of the Kitsilano Mental Health Team to Kitsilano area - the next team to be established after the Mt. Pleasant Team. You'll notice that the bulletin refers to the team as a "mental health" rather than a "community care" team. The purpose of the advertisement is to ask residents in the Kitsilano area to become involved in the citizens committee connected with the team.

Unlike the Mt. Pleasant brochure, it's a poster not written by mental health professionals. The tone is quite strident. It begins by stating that "some attitudes and institutions remain " about mental illness "which are shameful and, in some cases, barbaric". It states that "Mental illness, in most cases, is *differences*" and "to be extremely different from the "average" is to ensure one's committal". It maintains that "The vast majority of people committed to mental hospitals or given drugs are not "sick". Rather, they are socially disabled". "Mental illness, you know, is not some weird disease. It happens to people, to anyone, when the pressure gets a little too hard to take". The poster asks for the participation of "a special kind of person, unfettered by the old methods, willing to try new ones to meet new problems". It concludes by asking any interested citizen in Kitsilano to "Join the Citizen's Committee and do something about it".

The citizen's committees were never part of Cumming's Vancouver Plan. I believe that the head of the Health Board, or perhaps council members on the Vancouver City Council, requested that citizen advisory committees be set up in each of the areas where the care teams were to be established. These committees were short lived, lasting perhaps two years at the most. I know when I arrived at the Strathcona Team in 1978 they were non-existent. Some of the team members there informed me, however, that when they were first hired in the early seventies that community members were part of their hiring committee.

I remember one of the psychiatrists involved with the Kits Team at that time telling me that at one of the citizen committee meetings a motion was made that all the team members be paid the same salary.