



MHMR

Directions Newsletter

June, 1986
Volume 12, Number 1

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GRANT ANNOUNCED BY GOVERNOR MARK WHITE

Governor Mark White announced Thursday, May 22, 1986, a Community Development grant under the Texas Community Development Program to Jasper County. This award of \$250,000 will be utilized along with \$36,500 in local resources for the replacement of Jasper/Newton Mental Health Mental Retardation facilities lost in a fire in early April of 1986. These funds will be used to construct a therapy center/sheltered workshop/day treatment facility, along with a retail center, and a greenhouse facility which will continue to provide services to mentally handicapped individuals from Jasper, Newton, Sabine, and Tyler counties.

Funds for this grant award will be available upon completion of negotiations between Jasper County and the Texas Department of Community Affairs.

PARENT GROUP MEETING ORGANIZED

In a combined effort with the Crippled Children Program of the Texas Department of Health, a parent group meeting has been organized by Sharon Yarbrough and Peggy Wooten. Sharon is an infant intervention worker at the San Jacinto County MHMR Center and Peggy is a social worker with the Crippled Children Program. The meetings are scheduled for the first Saturday of every other month.

GROVETON GROUP HOME CELEBRATES ITS FIRST YEAR

The past year has been an eventful one at the Groveton Group Home. They have gone from an idea to reality. The support of businesses and individuals in the community has greatly assisted them in supplying the support needed to run an establishment which meets the needs of their residents. The residents have adjusted well to their new home and have contributed to the betterment of the area. A contract has been acquired for the roadside parks in Trinity County. During Groveton Cleanup Day, residents were instrumental in turning an eyesore into a park-like setting. Local individuals assisted in breaking ground so that the home might have a garden to supply fresh vegetables. The garden has been a pet project for many of the residents of the home.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Yes, it's been a year since the Pineywoods Regional Treatment Center opened its doors. The Center had its first anniversary party on May 22, 1986 at 7:00. All employees and support staff were on hand to celebrate the occasion. The center is a licensed Psychiatric Hospital, owned and operated by Deep East Texas MHMR, and has been in operation since their opening on May 15, 1985. The first patient was admitted on May 23, 1985.

CRISIS LINE

In an emergency, call the MHMR Crisis Line, 1-800-392-8343.

SHELBY COUNTY MHR AUXILIARY
"HEARTS AT WORK"

Members of the Shelby County MHR Auxiliary are now sponsoring birthday parties for clients of that center. The parties are held at the center once a month, with each "birthday person" receiving a gift of \$5 from the Auxiliary. Auxiliary members also periodically take clients in need of clothing and the like into town to shop for these needs. Needs of the clients are reported to the auxiliary by employees of the center.

These busy auxiliary members have recently made a quilt and an afghan to be raffled off as a money making project. All proceeds will go to the Center. Also, the Center has just made room for their piano, bought and donated by the auxiliary. These ladies have definitely put their hearts, as well as their hands, to work.

SILSBEE ARC WELCOMES CHANGES

The Silsbee ARC sponsored a ribbon cutting ceremony and grand opening of their newly acquired building on May 30, 1986. This building will house the Sunshine Resale Shop.

The Silsbee ARC has also recently purchased a computer to be used for the halfway house and the workshop.

In an effort to make the new service director for the Hardin County MHR feel at home, the ARC sponsored a welcoming coffee for Rick Mik. This coffee was held on Wednesday afternoon, June 4.

CODE HANDBOOKS AVAILABLE

Copies of the revised Texas Mental Health Code Handbook are now available from Senator Ray Farabee, Senate State Affairs, P.O. Box 12068, Austin, TX, 78711, telephone, (512) 475-2150.

POLK COUNTY NEWS

The Polk County MHR Center contract with Wonder Chemical has been extended from four to seven items. This contract includes the repacking of items to be sold to Wolfe Nursery.

Also, Polk County Staff and several volunteers took the workshop clients on an outing to the Herman Park Zoo in Houston on May 17.

According to John Wilson, Service Director at the Polk County Center, the fish are still biting on Lake Livingston even after the recent storm passed through.

FROM THIS DAY FORWARD

Wedding bells were ringing for Becky Pennington and Wylie Westbrook on the evening of May 23 as they were married. Both Kirbyville/Newton workshop clients, Becky and Wylie spoke their wedding vows and enjoyed wedding cake right there at the workshop! Decorated beautifully by the clients, the wedding was a very enjoyable time for all. Congratulations to the happy couple.

ANGELINA COUNTY MHR OPEN HOUSE

"Come celebrate with us" was the call from the employees at the Angelina County MHR Center as they hosted an open house on May 20 from 3:00 - 5:30 p.m. The event, which was open to the general public, was sponsored by the Angelina County Advisory Council. The theme of this festive occasion was "Happiness is Good Mental Health", emphasizing May as mental health month. The purpose of the theme was the importance of maintaining good mental health. The staff enjoyed visiting with guests, the decorations were beautiful, and the refreshments were delicious. This was also a "fun" event, complete with door prizes and a clown!

FORUM AND HEARING ON RESPITE AND FAMILY SUPPORT

June 6, 1986 is the tentative date for a forum and public hearing in Houston on respite care and family support services. The hearing is presented by the state House Subcommittee on Respite Care Services chaired by Representative Frank Madla of San Antonio. A 3 to 4 hour educational forum, cosponsored by the ARC-Texas, the Texas Planning Council for Developmental Disabilities, and others will precede the public hearing.

For more information on the subcommittee hearings, contact Norine Jaloway, ARC-Texas, 833 Houston St., Austin, TX, 78756, or toll free (800) 252-9729. For more information on respite care of services needed or available, contact Jennifer Cernoch, Ph.D., Texas Respite Resource Network, Santa Rosa Children's Hospital, P.O. Box 7330, Station A., San Antonio, TX, 78285, telephone (512) 288-2794.

KIRBYVILLE NEWTON WORKSHOP RECEIVES DONATION

The Kirbyville-Newton Workshop gladly accepted a \$20,000 donation of water damaged merchandise by the Dollar Store in Kirbyville on May 22, 1986. The merchandise (general goods) will be used for an upcoming garage sale to be held by the workshop. Whatever is not sold at that time will be passed on to the resale shop.

LONGER DAYS, LAZY NIGHTS

Daylight Savings Time has come to mean an extension of our outdoor activities time in the summer. When it was introduced in England seventy years ago, DST was intended to conserve fuel and light for the war effort.

POSTERS AVAILABLE

Service Directors may want to decorate their reception areas with a series of three posters developed by the Independent Living Research Utilization (ILRU) which presents positive images of people with disabilities participating in their communities. To order, send \$5 for each poster to ILRU, P.O. Box 20095, Houston, TX, 77225.

COMMUNITY PLACEMENT GUIDE

The Parent Association for the Retarded of Texas, Inc., (PART) has recently published its "Community Placement Guide and Checklist" for help in finding community living arrangements for a person with mental retardation. For more information, contact, PART, P.O. Box 26102, Austin, TX 78755-0102.

PILOT STUDY OF NEW ATTENDANT PROGRAM

Hardin, Newton and Jasper Counties are included in a pilot attendant care project conducted by the Texas Department of Human Resources. Purpose of the project is to demonstrate the concept of a client-managed attendant care system. To the greatest extent possible, participants must be mentally and emotionally capable of hiring, supervising and terminating their own attendant. Americare Professionals, 107 W. Camellia, Orange, TX, 77630, is the service provider for Hardin, Newton and Jasper counties. Interested Service Directors should contact Patsy Owens at one of these three numbers: 882-0523, 882-0524, or 722-4050. For general information on the TDHS pilot attendant core program, contact German Valtierra, program specialist, TDHS, P.O. Box 2960, Mail Code 543-W, Austin, TX, 78769, telephone (512) 450-3136.

GLAD TO HAVE YOU

New employees this quarter were: Thomas Marsh, CSA III, Jasper Co. MHR; Richard Mik, Service Director, Hardin MHR; Dean Seiser, Caseworker II, Kirbyville/Newton; Brenda Wade, Houseparent I, Newton Group Home; and Willie Kenebrew, Houseparent I, Kirbyville Group Home.

Also, Loyce Fowler, Pre-school instructor, Shelby Child Development Center; Ruby Nell Greer, Houseparent I, Shelby House; Mark Coapman, CSA II, Nacogdoches SWS; Billie J. Lamb, CSA III, Polk/San Jacinto Infant Intervention; and Joyce Cartrett, Secretary II, Hardin MHR.

Others are Fay M. Williams, LVN I, Hardin MHR; Nelda R. White, Caseworker II, Hardin MHR; Renell Ritchey, Caseworker I, Polk Co. MHR; Trudy Cellars, Secretary I, Jasper MHR; and Iris Nichols, ACI, Financial Services.

And finally, Jimmy Hartsfield, CSA II, Pineywoods; Imogene Kimes, CSA II, Newton Group Home; Tana Roy, Secretary III, Special Services; Samuel Dibrell, PSY. MR-Inter Tm-South; and Travis Hamilton, CSA III, Nacogdoches/Shelby SWS.

COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED

John Dunks, son of Patsy Dunks, (CA), was recently presented a \$500 college scholarship by the Slavonic Benevolent Order of Texas Lodge #191. John is a charter member of the lodge, which has been in existence for two years. This was the first scholarship given by the lodge. John graduated from Lufkin High School this year in the top quarter of his class. He is planning on attending college at Texas A & M, where he has been admitted to the Corps of Cadets.

WE'LL MISS YOU

Departing from their respective places of service this quarter were: Ann Kennedy, LVN I, Pineywoods; Gary Womack, CSA II, Pineywoods; and Sherry Morgan, HP I, Newton Group Home. Good luck!

NACOGDOCHES COUNTY MHR CENTER SPONSORS LOGO CONTEST

"Because Your Mind Matters" was the winning slogan in the logo design contest sponsored by the Nacogdoches County MHR Center. Stephen F. Austin State University students in Asst. Professor Ben Hobbs' graphics class recently participated in the contest, in which the winning logo was used in May to promote MHR services. Paul Jackson, Director of the Out-Patient Clinic in Nacogdoches, was responsible for selecting a committee to judge the graphic logo designs.

Out of nineteen total entries, the winning logo and slogan belonged to Lisa Kennedy.

RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY FOR HOUSTON COUNTY MHR

The Houston County MHR Open House was held from 4:00 - 6:00 on May 15, 1986, with the ribbon cutting ceremony by the Chamber of Commerce. Judge Allen Sturrock was Master of Ceremonies, and speaker for the event was State Representative Mike McKinney. The open house was sponsored jointly by the Houston County Advisory Council, Bessie Favor, President, and the Association for Handicapped Persons, Inc., Lynette Jordan, President.

The Sheltered Workshop and Infant Intervention Center is now housed under one roof at 1401 W. Austin, Crockett, Texas.

CLIENT RIGHTS

Any client, relative of a client, or representative of a client who has a complaint, comment, or suggestion regarding the health, safety, welfare or legal and human rights of a patient or client of this center is invited and urged to submit them in writing to:

Chairperson
Public Responsibility
Committee
P.O. Box 935
Lufkin, Texas 75901

The Public Responsibility Committee is an independent, impartial body. None of its members are employees of this center.

SPINA BIFIDA BROCHURE

The Spina Bifida Association of America has developed a new brochure explaining the prenatal screening test for open neural tube defect. Copies of the brochure entitled, Alpha-fetoprotein Blood Screening and Amniotic Testing, are available from the association at 343 South Dearborn St., Suite 310, Chicago, Illinois, 60604, telephone (800) 621-3141.

NEW FOUNDATION

The Foundation for the Developmentally Disabled, a non-profit group, has been founded to provide protective services for children and adults who are unable to be fully independent due to developmental disabilities. For more information, contact Edward M. Kirch, Executive Director, 2114 Anson Rd., Dallas, TX, 75235, telephone (214) 634-9810.

SHELTERED WORKSHOPS/ RESIDENTIAL CARE FACILITIES CONFERENCE IN JUNE

Dallas is the site of the U.S. Department of Labor conference for sheltered workshops and residential care facilities personnel. It begins at noon, Monday, June 16, 1986, and concludes at noon the following day, at the Executive Inn.

Participation is limited to no more than two persons for each shop.

Call M. Robert Everett at (512) 454-3761, ext. 4528, for more information about registration.

PLANNING COUNCIL REPORT

Copies of final project reports presented at "Changing the Service Delivery System: A New Beginning", the 1986 Developmental Disabilities Program Grants Conference, will be available from the Council upon request. Topics covered by the grantees include community living, independent living skills training and early childhood intervention programs. Call Jennifer Roberie at (512) 445-8867 for more information.

NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

Deep East Texas Regional MHR Services does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, handicap, or age in admission or access to treatment or employment in its programs and activities.

Sanford Skelton, Rights Protection Officer, has been designed to coordinate efforts to comply with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and its implementing regulation which prohibits discrimination on the basis of handicap.

CRISIS LINE

In an emergency, call the MHR Crisis Line, 1-800-392-8343.

FARM CRISIS HOTLINE
1-(800) AGRI-AID

The Texas Department of Agriculture has a new hotline for farmers under stress. Texas Farm Hotline staff members provide information and referral services to individual farmers and family members who need help coping with economic and social problems caused by the current crisis conditions in the depressed farm economy.

GIFTS AND BEQUESTS

Deep East Texas Regional MHRM Services and your local County MHRM Centers welcome gifts and bequests from you to help us serve the needs of people who are retarded or mentally impaired. These donations bear a special meaning for not only the giver, but the receiver.

For information on making a bequest or donation, contact your local MHRM Center or call or write Deep East Texas Regional MHRM Services, 4101 S. Medford Dr., Lufkin, TX 75901, (512) 639-1141.

"PROJECT BOOTSTRAP" MANUALS AVAILABLE

Service Directors wanting to increase the contributions of their county support organizations might be interested in a new publication put out by the Texas Department of Aging called "Project Bootstrap", a manual on building foundations and endowments. Write the Texas Department of Aging, ATTN: Allen Baca, P.O. Box 12786, Capitol Station, Austin, TX, 78711, or telephone (512) 444-2727.

STAFF BIRTHDAYS IN JUNE

Best wishes to our staff who are celebrating birthdays in the month of June.

Debbie Albritton, Betty Griffin, Rose Hadnot, Barbara Hornbuckle, and Elaine Hussey.

Sue Jasper, V.L. McKelvey, Marcell Moody, Jana Mooney, and Louise Rice.

Peggy Smith, Shirley Stubblefield, Kathy Wells, K.P. Williams, Wendy Jones, Jimmy Hartsfield, and Karen Jensen.

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