



DIRECTIONS

DEEP EAST TEXAS REGIONAL MENTAL HEALTH MENTAL RETARDATION SERVICES

An Equal Opportunity Employer

Vol. 3, No. 9

May 11, 1977

APRIL BOARD MEETING HELD IN COLDSRING

The Board of Trustees of the Deep East Texas Regional Mental Health Mental Retardation Services (MHMR) held its regular monthly meeting at the San Jacinto County Courthouse in Coldspring on April 26, 1977, at 5:30 p.m.

Items for consideration by the Budget and Finance Committee included a discussion of the status of the Day Treatment/Administration Facility, consideration of bids for a vehicle for Shelby County Halfway House, and a discussion of sources of financial support for Community MHMR Centers.

Items for consideration by the Program Committee included a discussion and consideration of additional funding possibilities, consideration of Proposed Title I Project for FY 1978, and consideration of Proposed Board Policy Concerning Volunteers.

Items for consideration by the Personnel and Public Education Committee included consideration of Proposed Public Education Schedule, consideration of Proposed Position Descriptions, and consideration of Proposed Certificates of Appreciation.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board will be on May 24, 1977, at 5:30 p. m. at the Texas Power and Light Co., 513 North Street, Nacogdoches, Texas.



Mrs. Bessie Sanders, R.N., receives a Certificate of Appreciation from Board Chairman, Ward R. Burke at the April Board Meeting.

MEDICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETS

On Thursday, May 5, 1977, the MHMR Medical Advisory Committee held its organizational meeting. The following physicians from our region were in attendance: Dr. R. I. Garrett, Angelina County Medical Society; Dr. Phillip LaBarbera, Nacogdoches County Medical Society; and Dr. Harry Ricketts, Houston County Medical Society. This group met with Dr. Wayne Lawrence, Dr. Felix Peebles and Dr. Jack Martin, and discussed relevant issues concerning the MHMR medical psychiatric programs.

MHMR LOCALLY OPERATED AND CONTROLLED PROGRAMS

Some questions which are frequently asked about MHMR with some brief answers are listed below.

Q. Is MHMR a federal program?

A. No - MHMR is a regional program funded jointly by the 13 counties in our region and the State of Texas (through TDMHMR).

Q. Is MHMR a part of the Council of Governments (DETCOG)?

A. No - MHMR is administratively and fiscally independent of the Council of Governments. Both bodies work together in planning future programs, but are not directly connected.

Q. Who operates MHMR?

A. A nine (9) member Board of Trustees representing the 13 counties. These nine people, who are appointed by the 13 County Judges, are all local people and report back to the County Judges about the status of MHMR programs.

Q. What is the main purpose of MHMR?

A. Our main purpose is to help mentally ill, mentally retarded, alcoholic and drug abuse individuals and their families cope with their problem in their home community whenever possible. We do not strive to keep all people out of State institutions, as some people need this type of care, and we work closely with the State Schools and State Hospitals.

WELCOME NEWCOMERS

Since the first of May, five new employees have joined the MHMR staff, and we would like to extend a big welcome to:

FRANKIE JO CLARK, Psychologist, Angelina Co. OPC
KENNETH L. JOHNSON, Unit Supervisor, Newton Co. OPC

LEVIE VERNELL KINDLE, Housekeeper/Cook, Shelby Co. Halfway House

JAMES F. McDERMOTT, Director, Program Support Services Division

MARC L. ZIMMERMANN, Unit Supervisor, Angelina Co. OPC

UNIT HAPPENINGS

WELCOME MHMR'S NEWEST PROGRAM

The Houston County Sheltered Workshop became a reality April 15th when they moved into their new Workshop at 628 North Fourth Street, Crockett. The new building provides 2100 square feet of space including offices for staff and reception area. The totally new facility was built by Mr. Jim Turner and leased to MHMR. Curtains for the new facility have been provided by the Volunteer Council of Lufkin State School, and new equipment and tools are being delivered daily.

The main emphasis of the Workshop will be in the area of ceramics. The staff has visited several other programs that make ceramics and are in the process of setting up all of the necessary equipment. The staff consists of: Larry Welker, Director; May Beth Hailey, Trainer; and Edwina Long, Trainer.

JASPER-NEWTON SHELTERED WORKSHOP AND JASPER COUNTY DEVELOPMENTAL CENTER

The Workshop had a new job this month of making crepe paper flowers for the JayCees to use in the Miss Jasper Pageant. Also, the clients are still raking yards and packaging screws using the new heat sealer.

The Developmental Center made numerous local field trips this month to the Carradine Park, grocery store, Sno-Ball stand, and to Mrs. Langford's house to make pizza and cookies. The Center now has two sand boxes made from large tractor tires with the help of the clients in the Workshop, who sawed out the tops. The sand was donated by the Jasper Redi-Mix, and these are really being used. Clients were busy preparing for the Jasper Rodeo parade the first week of May entering a float sponsored by Jasper Redi-Mix. The theme of the parade was "Jasper Area Recreation."

NACOGDOCHES COUNTY SHELTERED WORKSHOP

The Nacogdoches County Sheltered Workshop has obtained a contract with Tipton Ford Used Cars. This involves detailed cleaning of cars. The contract provides valuable and realistic job experience for eight to ten clients, and brings in a large amount of income to the Workshop. The clients, working in assembly-line fashion, can clean two to four cars a day, cleaning everything from the engine to the vinyl. The clients in charge of this particular contract are: Jim Berry, Brent McElmurray, Marcus Murdock, Paul Thurham, James Steadham, Lawrence Whitaker, J. T. Blackburn and Ira Henderson.

SHELBY COUNTY SHELTERED WORKSHOP

Clients of the Workshop recently participated in a Spring Garden Project sponsored by the Young Women's Service League. Each client had a chance to plant his/her own flower, and refreshments were served after the gardening.

The workshop participated in the flea market held on May 7 in Center at Excelsior Special Education School Grounds with a Booth displaying planters, toys and Christmas tree ornaments made and painted by the clients. Also, several furniture contracts were recently completed.

NEWTON COUNTY DEVELOPMENTAL CENTER

We celebrated Easter with a party given by the Center's staff. Clients made greeting cards for parents and friends along with booklets on the Signs of Spring.

Four clients traveled to Nacogdoches for the Ella Jenkin Concert. After the concert, they enjoyed playing in the park and having lunch with the Jasper and Kirbyville Developmental Center clients.

Renovation has begun on our building, which we hope will be completed during the summer months.

SAN JACINTO COUNTY DEVELOPMENTAL CENTER

The Developmental Center clients and staff celebrated the Easter season with an egg hunt and refreshments following the hunt. On May 14th, Mrs. Juanita Hoot and the clients went on a field trip to the Indian Reservation with the Polk County Sheltered Workshop clients and staff.

Many improvements are being made at the Center, including the installation of air conditioning. Also the grounds are being improved and two gardens planted. We are looking forward to greater things in the summer.

KIRBYVILLE DEVELOPMENTAL CENTER

The clients and staff at the Center celebrated Easter with a smashing party and egg hunt, with lots of eggs and candy donated by the mothers.

Clients and staff had a fun-day field trip to the Checker Board Processing Plant, and were given two chickens while there. They also had a delicious lunch at the Pizza Hut. And, two clients recently traveled to Nacogdoches for the Ella Jenkins Concert which they enjoyed very much.

REGIONAL PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETS

The Regional Professional Advisory Committee held its regular quarterly meeting in Lufkin on Tuesday, May 3, 1977. This group is composed of interested volunteer professionals who provide input into MHMR program planning. In attendance at this meeting were: Mr. Scott Evans, Vice-Chairman, Trinity County; Dr. Verna Barron, Secretary, Nacogdoches County; Mr. James Duncan, Newton County; Dr. Bill Kistler, Angelina County; and Rev. J. B. Mark, Tyler County. Several issues were discussed, and the group expressed particular interest in programs for the female alcoholic and statistical trends in the area of referral sources.

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK.....

NEW DIVISION DIRECTOR NAMED

I would like this opportunity to briefly explain the role of our Board of Trustees. Our Board is composed of nine individuals representing our 13 county geographical region. These individuals are appointed by our sponsoring agencies (i.e., County Commissioner's Courts), and are directly answerable to these appointing bodies. The Board, therefore, insures local control for our programs.

The individuals serving on our Board serve without pay and are reimbursed only for their travel expenses. Each Board member serves only through his or her dedication to the handicapped citizens of our region. Each of these individuals has given unselfishly of their time, talents, and resources since their formation in February, 1974. The Board has held a total of 43 meetings with attendance being excellent at each of these meetings. Listed below are the names and counties represented by each of our Board members:



As of May 16, 1977, Mr. Jim McDermott assumed the position of Director, Program Support Services Division. Mr. McDermott is a graduate of the University of Texas at Austin (B.A.) and the University of Houston (M.A.) in Sociology. Mr. McDermott comes to us from Angelina College where he served as Director of Community Services and Instructor of Sociology for four years. Prior to that, he was Director of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Planning with the Deep East Texas Council of Governments.

Mr. McDermott is married and has two children, Shannon (6 years) and Sean (5 months). His wife, Cynthia, is a housewife and free lance artist.

THERE'S NO LIMIT TO THE AMOUNT OF GOOD A MAN
CAN DO IF HE DOESN'T CARE WHO GETS THE CREDIT.

- Mr. Ward R. Burke,
Chairman.....Angelina
- Mr. George E. Gee.....Jasper & New-
ton
- Mr. R. B. Hille,
Secretary.....Polk & San
Jacinto
- Judge Emmett Lack.....Hardin
- Mr. Tom D. Mann,
Vice-Chairman.....Sabine, San
Augustine &
Shelby
- Mrs. Agnes Rhoder.....Houston
- Jerry M. Self, Th.D....Nacogdoches
- Judge Allen Sturrock...Tyler
- Mr. V. B. Woods,
Treasurer.....Trinity

If a local citizen has a question concerning the services offered by MHMR, they should contact either their local program, the Administrative offices in Lufkin, or their local Board member.

CLIENTS TO ATTEND SUMMER CAMP

Approximately 60 MHMR's clients from throughout the region will attend a 5 day camp at Camp Leander near Austin, from August 12 through August 17. Camp Leander is owned and operated by the Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation for the benefit of clients and residents of State Schools and Hospitals. The facility has now been made available to clients of community centers.

Campers will have the opportunity to ride horseback, fish, swim, ride paddleboats, and will be treated to hayrides and other entertainment.

For many of the adult retarded, this will be their first opportunity to participate in overnight camping away from home and parents.

Tuition for the camp is \$20.00 per person. If you would like to sponsor a camper or campers, please complete the form below and return it along with your check to "MHMR's Summer Camp", 303 Angelina Building, Lufkin, Texas, 75901.

The mental retardation staff plans to make this an annual event, so give a mentally retarded person a thrill by providing this opportunity. For your convenience, please use the form below.

I WOULD LIKE TO SPONSOR _____ PERSON(S) TO SUMMER CAMP

NAME OF SPONSOR _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____ ENCLOSED IS MY CHECK FOR \$ _____

PLEASE ADDRESS CORRESPONDENCE TO: DIRECTIONS, DEEP EAST TEXAS REGIONAL MENTAL HEALTH MENTAL RETARDATION SERVICES, 303 ANGELINA BUILDING, LUFKIN, TEXAS 75901.

The Deep East Texas Regional Mental Health Mental Retardation Services operates in compliance with the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended and Executive Order 11246, as amended.