



DIRECTIONS

DEEP EAST
TEXAS REGIONAL
MHMR SERVICES

4101 SOUTH MEDFORD DRIVE

LUFKIN, TEXAS 75901

PHONE: AREA CODE 713/639-1141
Wayne Lawrence, Ph.D., Executive Director

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An Equal Opportunity Employer

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MHMR BOARD MEETS

The Board of Trustees met on Tuesday evening, December 20, 1977, at 5:00 p.m. in the Harvest Room of Lufkin Federal Savings and Loan Building.

The Board heard the Treasurer's report and passed on several motions.

The results of the recently completed management audit conducted by the Texas Department of Mental Health Mental Retardation (TDMHMR) were presented by Mr. Darrel Dorsey of TDMHMR. In addition, a report was given to the Board on the recently completed Fiscal Audit by Mr. Lynn Montes of Axley and Rode, C.P.A. The results of both audits were generally very complimentary.

Mr. Bill Dillard, Deputy Commissioner, Community Services with TDMHMR, requested that the Board allow TDMHMR Programmatic Standards to be piloted by Deep East Texas Regional MHMR Services. This center is one of three centers selected throughout the State.

Other items included: a discussion of the status of the Day Treatment/Administrative Facility, consideration of revised fee schedule, discussion of plans for a Volunteer Recognition Banquet and a discussion of a proposed Board Workshop.

CHANGES TO NOTE

The Administrative/Day Treatment Facility has opened effective January 10, 1978. This facility will house the Day Treatment Program and Central Administration. The address is: 4101 South Medford Drive, Lufkin, Texas 75901. The telephone number is: 713/639-1141.

"There are few, if any, jobs in which ability alone is sufficient. Needed also are loyalty, sincerity, enthusiasm, and cooperation."

TRUSTEES HOST CHRISTMAS FUNCTION

The Board of Trustees hosted a Christmas gathering at the home of Executive Director, Dr. Wayne Lawrence, on December 4. The function was primarily to allow the Board, staff and their families to interact and celebrate the Christmas season. Approximately 400 persons attended the gathering including several area friends of MHMR.



Mrs. Russ Burbank, wife of Russ Burbank, Director, Mental Retardation Division, serves Mr. Ward Burke, Chairman, Board of Trustees, coffee at the Christmas function.



Board members and their wives pose for a group picture at the Christmas function. Couples from left to right: Mr. V.B. Woods and wife, Thelma Lea; Judge Allen Sturrock and wife, Rachel; Mr. George Gee and wife, Lois; Rev. Jerry Self and wife, Peggy; Mr. Ben Hille and wife, Becky; and Mr. Ward Burke and wife, Anna Belle.

from the Director's Desk

On Tuesday, January 10, 1978, the central administrative offices and day treatment program moved to the recently completed Day Treatment/Administration Facility. This facility is located at 4101 South Medford Drive in Lufkin, and the telephone number for both Central Administration and the Day Treatment Program is 713/639-1141. This facility, which is an 8,300 sq. ft. building, is equipped to meet all regulations and codes relating to handicapped individuals, fire codes, etc., and was made possible by two major grants and contributions. The Department of Health, Education, and Welfare (DHEW) provided \$225,000, the T.L.L. Temple Foundation contributed \$45,000 and the MHMR Center contributed the remaining \$30,000 for a total construction cost of \$300,000. This building will allow for the expansion and improved quality of care for our Day Treatment Program through the provision of arts and crafts program, homemaking training, woodworking, etc. The facility will also have the capacity to provide video tape feedback for training of staff in counseling techniques. The facility will also provide for a Board meeting Conference Room, and will house the Central Administration offices including accounting, personnel, and administrative staff.

Dedication ceremonies involving Congressman Charles Wilson, the T.L.L. Temple Foundation, and other dignitaries is scheduled for the early part of March.

The Board and staff are appreciative of the opportunity of utilizing these excellent facilities, and once again would like to express sincere appreciation to the T.L.L. Temple Foundation, DHEW, and other groups which provided for the construction of this facility.



Dr. Wayne Lawrence, Executive Director, presents a Certificate of Appreciation to Mr. A.G. Cromwell of Lufkin Federal Savings and Loan Association.

APPRECIATION CERTIFICATES AWARDED

Two Certificates of Appreciation have been recently awarded by the Deep East Texas Regional MHMR Services' Board of Trustees. Certificates of Appreciation are awarded to individuals or organizations for outstanding contributions to the mentally handicapped citizens of the Deep East Texas region. Persons and/or organizations that are recognized through a Certificate of Appreciation have given loyal support and unselfish service in helping MHMR local programs continue to progress for the benefit of our clients.

A Certificate was given to Mr. A.G. Cromwell, Executive Vice-President, of Lufkin Federal Savings and Loan Association. Lufkin Federal has allowed the Board of Trustees to utilize the Savings and Loans' Harvest Room for monthly Board meetings at no cost. This has been a valuable service to MHMR over the past three years.

A second Certificate of Appreciation was given posthumously to Mrs. Anna Pfleger of Groveton, Texas. Mr. V.B. Woods, Treasurer of the Board, presented the Certificate to Mrs. Pfleger's daughter, Mrs. Sanson, at the December Board meeting. Also in attendance was Mrs. Pfleger's mother, Mrs. Bowers, and sister, Mrs. Martin. Oma Bush and Janice Bergmon came to honor Mrs. Pfleger as friends and representatives of the Trinity County Advisory Council. Mrs. Pfleger was an active member of the Trinity County Advisory Council and made outstanding contributions of time and energy to aid the mentally handicapped in Trinity County as well as all Deep East Texas.



Mr. V.B. Wood, Board Treasurer, presents a Certificate of Appreciation to Mrs. Sanson, daughter of Mrs. Anna Pfleger at December Board meeting.



NACOGDOCHES COUNTY SHELTERED WORKSHOP

The Nacogdoches workshop held their annual Christmas Party on December 16, 1977.

Refreshments for the party were brought by clients and staff members under the supervision of Ms. Sharon Medford. The exchange of Christmas gifts among the clients was the highlight of the party. All of the clients were able to attend.

The workshop would like to take time out to thank the volunteer field placement students who helped us this year. We would also like to wish them good luck in the future. Those students are: Hardden Weech, Ruby Moore, Kimberly Koze, Gwen Graves and Nelda Filts.

SAN JACINTO COUNTY DEVELOPMENTAL CENTER



The Spirit of Giving was seen Monday as the Camilla American Legion and Women's Auxiliary presented the San Jacinto County Developmental Center with a wheelchair. Pictured sitting in the new chair is Jerry Harden. Also pictured are Marcelene Williams, director of the center, Doris Holloman and Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Kee of the American Legion Camilla Post 629, and sitting, Miria Punch.

"Everything should be made as simple as possible, but not simpler."

—Albert Einstein

KIRBYVILLE DEVELOPMENTAL CENTER

This month the Center moved to our new location at 602 North Vallie. The clients love the new school and especially decorating it for the annual visitation of Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus. The jolly couple arrived at our Christmas Party loaded down with all kinds of "goodies" for the clients. After the clients made their requests known to old St. Nick, he distributed their gifts and refreshments were served.

TRINITY COUNTY OUTPATIENT CLINIC

The Trinity County Outpatient Clinic's Sunshine Group, composed mostly of local area elderly citizens, met for its first annual Christmas Party on Monday, December 19. The Sunshine Group is a part of the Deep East Texas MHMR's Day Treatment Services, which are offered regularly in the area once a week for a three hour time period. The day-treatment provides recreational and resocialization opportunities for its members, who are referred to the clinic by the Department of Human Resources or other area institutional services.

Monday, 10 of the 11 active group members met to share a 1977 Christmas experience with one another. Gifts, good cheer, and many refreshments were enjoyed by all, and the party was highlighted by a visit from Saint Nicholas, who looked suspiciously like the Sunshine Group's leader, George Steed, a caseworker at the Trinity County Outpatient Clinic.

The Sunshine Group has been meeting consistently since the early part of July, 1977. It has grown steadily from a beginning membership of 6 to the present number of 11 clients. According to Mr. Steed, there is still room for more clients if the need is there. And, the benefits to its members seem significant. As one group member expressed, "Things have really changed for me. It's something that could help anybody who is down and doesn't feel like getting up." At this Christmas time, watching the Sunshine Group share a part of their Christmas season together, it certainly seems they are benefiting each other.

For further information, contact George Steed or Bill Johnson at the Trinity County Outpatient Clinic in Groveton Hospital and Nursing Home. The phone number is 642-1633.

"Speak when you are angry and you will make the best speech you will ever regret."

—Ambrose Bierce

WELCOME NEW STAFF

The following individuals have joined the Deep East Texas Regional MHMR Services' staff since our last issue of "Directions".

FRANKLIN AVANT, Director, Business Division.

DON EVANS, Relief Houseparent, Sunrise Manor Halfway House.

DOROTHY M. GARRETT, Cook/Housekeeper, Shelby County Halfway House.

SHARRY GRIFFIN, Secretary I, Prescreening and Aftercare.

BETTY PATE, Secretary I, Business Division.

BECKY RUNYAN, Teacher's Aide, Nacogdoches Sheltered Workshop (C.E.T.A. employee).

LU TAYLOR, Secretary I, Jasper County Outpatient Clinic.

DR. PEEBLES

Felix Peebles, M.D., Director of the Clinical Program for Deep East Texas Regional MHMR Services since January 15, 1975, has accepted a position with the Beaumont State Center for Human Development. Dr. Peebles' last day on the job with MHMR was January 4, 1978. Dr. Peebles has made significant contributions to the clients served by MHMR as well as to the organization. The Board and staff wish Dr. Peebles and his wife, Mae, success in Beaumont.



Dr. Peebles (center) with his wife, Mae, and Dr. Wayne Lawrence, Executive Director, at the recent MHMR Christmas function.

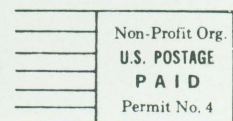
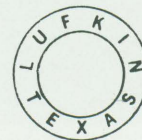
NEW DIRECTOR, BUSINESS DIVISION

Mr. Franklin Avant has accepted the position of Director, Business Division, effective January 9, 1978. Mr. Avant comes to MHMR from the Texas Department of Mental Health Mental Retardation where he held the position of Staff Services Officer for the Community Services Division for over four years. Mr. Avant received his B.B.A. from the University of Texas at Austin. His wife, Dixie, and two children, Bryan, 17, and Melissa, 13, will be moving to Lufkin when the school year ends in Austin. Mr. Avant is a rabid sports fan, especially of the University of Texas' football team. He enjoys music and food as well as a good game of bridge. Mr. Avant lists his family as his most special interest.

MHMR is particularly fortunate to have Mr. Avant join the staff because of his experience and management skills. The Board and staff of MHMR welcome Mr. Avant to his new position and wish him and his family the best of good fortune in the Lufkin community and the Deep East Texas area.



Mr. Franklin Avant, Director, Business Division.



Please address correspondence to: DIRECTIONS, Deep East Texas Regional Mental Health Mental Retardation Services, 4101 S. Medford Drive, Lufkin, TX 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.