



DIRECTIONS

DEEP EAST TEXAS REGIONAL MHMR SERVICES

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An Equal Opportunity Employer

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MHMR BOARD MEETS

The Board of Trustees for the Deep East Texas Regional Mental Health Mental Retardation Services met on Tuesday, March 28, 1978, at 5:00 p.m. in the Conference Room at the Day Treatment/Administration Facility in Lufkin.

Items for discussion by the Budget and Finance Committee included consideration of proposed budget priorities for FY 79 and consideration of proposed data processing system plans.

Items for discussion by the Program Committee included consideration of a proposed contract for transitional living services and consideration of a proposed management audit follow-up action.

Items for discussion by the Personnel and Public Education Committee included consideration of proposed Board Policies, consideration of personnel matters and consideration of a proposed Resolution of Appreciation.

APPOINTMENT

John J. Kavanaugh, M.D., Deputy Commissioner for Mental Health Services since January, 1978, has been named Acting Commissioner of TDMHMR. He assumed his new duties on March 1 when the current Commissioner, Kenneth D. Gaver, M.D., stepped down to enter private practice. Dr. Kavanaugh will serve as the Acting Commissioner until the Texas Board of Mental Health and Mental Retardation fills the position permanently.

In naming Dr. Kavanaugh to the post, the Board also appointed a four-member Advisory Committee to assist him in direction of the Department and preparation of budgets for consideration by the legislature. This committee is composed of administrators and/or executives of the four major service categories making up TDMHMR.

REV. SELF LEAVES BOARD

Rev. Jerry M. Self, Ph.D., Baptist minister and one of the original members of the Board of Trustees of the Deep East Texas Regional MHMR Services has moved to Nashville, Tennessee to take a position with the Southern Baptist Convention. Rev. Self has been a dedicated citizen of his community and has made significant contributions toward the growth of Deep East Texas Regional MHMR Services during his tenure on the Board of Trustees. The staff of MHMR wishes Rev. Self the best of luck in his new position and thank him for all he has done to further the cause of mentally handicapped individuals.



Rev. Jerry M. Self

TOLL FREE CRISIS LINE—1-800-392-8343



from the Director's Desk

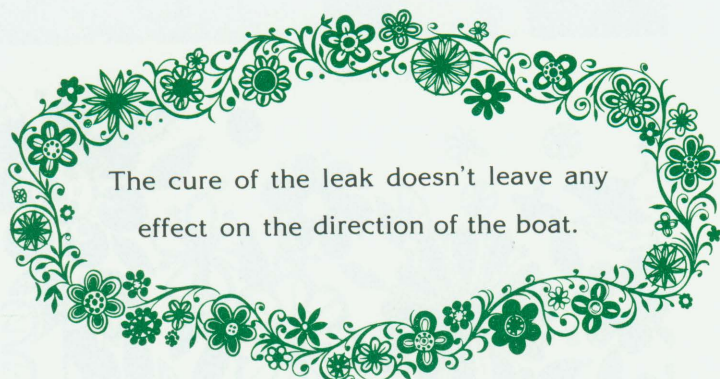
BUDGET PREPARATION TIME

Our Center is currently in the process of preparing our budgets for the next three years. We have recently received instructions from the Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation (TDMHMR) concerning the preparation of our operating budget for FY 1979 and the Zero Base Budget (ZBB) request for the biennium 1980-81. The operating budget for FY 1979 will represent a plan of action for the coming fiscal year. The budget document for the biennium 1980-81 will be a request which will be submitted to TDMHMR and, in turn, to the 66th session of the State Legislature when it convenes in January. Our present plans include the presentation of these documents to our Board of Trustees in the middle of May. Following Board approval, our budget hearing with the State agency will be conducted on May 31, 1978.

For the past several months, we have been planning for this budget cycle. Advisory Committees and Councils, staff, interested citizens, advocate groups, etc. have been given the opportunity to provide input relating to programmatic needs for our region. This input, along with data received from Needs Assessment questionnaires, Client Satisfaction Survey, etc. will be used to construct the budget requests for the biennium 1980-81.

Realizing we are dealing with limited resources, our Board of Trustees is faced with the task of establishing budget priorities. The budget priorities selected by the Board represent those program areas which will receive funding—therefore, representing a plan of action for our programs.

The preparation of a multi-million dollar budget is a very complex and cumbersome endeavor. It takes the cooperation of a large number of people, and I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to each person who has been involved, or will be involved, in this task.



VOLUNTEERS OF THE MONTH

Edith Beetham and Patsy Weems of Lufkin are the Volunteers of the Month of April. Both are volunteers in Central Administration.

At present, Mrs. Beetham volunteers her time two or three afternoons a week in the Program Support Services Division. She has also spent over 200 volunteer hours assisting the Client Data Coordinator.

Mrs. Beetham helps in the Business Division from time to time performing a variety of tasks in a most efficient manner. She is a member of RSVP, and we are delighted that she chose MHMR as her volunteer station.

Mrs. Weems is also a volunteer in Program Support Services. She keeps the MHMR Scrapbook after searching area newspapers and publications for items about MHMR functions. She helps with distribution of brochures, special mailings, any task that needs a pair of competent, extra hands. Prior to helping at Central she provided many hours of volunteer service at the Angelina Outpatient Clinic in 1975 and 1976.

These two volunteers make significant contributions to MHMR, and their time is greatly appreciated by staff and Board of Trustees.



Duane Alcorn, unit supervisor for the Polk County Community Counseling Center has been appointed Coordinator of the Employee Assistance Program. The Employee Assistance Program is designed to help employees who may be experiencing medical-behavior problems receive assistance with their problem through an internal counseling resource within MHMR.





NEWTON COUNTY CENTER

March has been a busy month for the clients and staff of the Newton County Developmental Center. March 9, Mrs. Conny Hughes' Homemaking Class presented a variety of activities to our clients. They played learning games such as Follow-the-Leader and Hot Potato. They also demonstrated Number Concepts 1 through 10, using flash cards which they had made and wooden number blocks. We appreciate the time and work that Diane Wilkinson, Desiree Mitchell, Mary Kimes, Gail Gray, Lisa McMahon and Joselle Daniels put into their class project. We are glad that they shared them with us.

We celebrated St. Patrick's Day and Easter with a picnic and party. Mrs. Doyle Warren brought each client an Easter Basket.

Visitors to our unit this month: Mrs. Keith King, DHR caseworker; Mrs. Sandra Boyett; and Mr. Russ Burbank of Lufkin.

NACOGDOCHES COUNTY SHELTERED WORKSHOP

The Nacogdoches County Sheltered Workshop will be losing two employees this month: Unit Supervisor, Allen Micheletti, and secretary, Rebecca Looney.

Allen has been with MHMR since 1975. Since then, he has proven to have been a valuable asset to the Workshop. Rebecca has been here since October, 1977, and has also been invaluable in her assistance with us. We wish them both good luck in their futures.

TYLER COUNTY CENTER

The clients at the Tyler County Developmental Center always have such a good time when someone at the Developmental Center has a birthday. There is always cake and ice cream to eat and games to play. The clients have celebrated three birthdays this way recently.

Our older clients got a great thrill out of going to the Courthouse and meeting the Governor of Texas and his wife. They even had their pictures taken with him.

Volunteers are always good to help in any way, and when you have one like Betty Sols, you really realize how much help a volunteer can be. Mrs. Sols is always willing to help at anytime. She painted pictures for our older clients and donated a picture for the younger clients at the Developmental Center.

KIRBYVILLE DEVELOPMENTAL CENTER

The clients have really enjoyed the facilities at our new Center. The dining area and kitchen enable the clients to improve their homemaking skills and social skills. They are learning to serve themselves at their tables. After lunch, the older clients clean the dining area, kitchen, and bathrooms, alternating tasks each week. The Buna Tennis Association improved these facilities further by donating stainless steel pots, plates, bowls, educational activity toys, and shag carpet for the Music Room. The Center would like to express our gratitude for these donations.

Camp Bill Stark was the setting for our Easter Picnic Outing. The volunteers, clients, and staff enjoyed a nature walk, puppet show, picnic lunch, and an Easter egg hunt. Prizes were given to the clients who found the most Easter eggs. Everyone also had a lot of fun crossing a scary, awesome, swinging bridge, with the clients leading staff and volunteers by the hand. The "head honcho" laughed at everyone attempting the "horri-fying" cross-over, but after we were back at the Center, it was noticed that "she" did not attempt it. The clients and staff would like to express their appreciation to Mr. Herman, Director of the Boy Scout Camp, and our volunteers: Arcell Bean, Ann Hayles, Rusty Navarre, and Susan Krouse.

SHELBY COUNTY WORKSHOP



Clients at Shelby County Sheltered Workshop are working through a math problem during their Personal Social Adjustment training class.

During the month of March, 147 volunteers provided 2,516 hours of service. Congratulations, volunteers!

MERIT RAISES

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.