



MHMR

Directions Newsletter

Volume 12, No. 3
August, 1986

CAMP LEANDER ENJOYED BY ALL

54 MHMR clients and 17 MHMR staff members enjoyed a week of horseback riding, paddle boating, and softball games at Camp Leander this year. The camp, which is located on 700-plus acres 17 miles north of Austin, is a rustic retreat owned by TDMHMR. Most of the clients were able to participate in the games and activities (including a volleyball game in which Benny Russell twisted his ankle).

"This was my first experience at such a camp and I would consider it a big success," commented John Wilson, Service Director for the Polk/San Jacinto MHMR Center. Camp Leander was a 5-day adventure, which began June 23.

JASPER/NEWTON IIP HOLDS WALK-A-THON

A 10-mile walk-a-thon was held by the Jasper/Newton IIP on May 24. The starting point for the walk was the beginning of the Airport Rd. in Kirbyville. Walk-a-thon participants solicited pledges from members of the community, with the pledges averaging .50 to \$1 each. Proceeds from the walk-a-thon, which totalled \$1,300, went to the Jasper/Newton IIP.

Part of the proceeds from this event went to sponsor a picnic for infants and their mothers on July 10. Infants and their mothers were picked up by employees of the Jasper/Newton IIP and taken to Lake Ebenezer for the all-day outing. This was an enjoyable time for all.

FARM SETTING FOR ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE TREATMENT PROGRAM

The Board of Trustees of Deep East Texas Regional MHMR has accepted a \$1.8 million challenge grant proposed by the T.L.L. Temple Foundation to plan and develop an alcohol and drug abuse rehabilitation farm program in the Deep East Texas Region.

The Foundation has agreed to supplement the funding for the program for the first five years of operation which will include a half million dollars for building construction.

The comprehensive, coeducational program will accommodate up to 48 persons. Services available to each resident will include individual, group and family counseling in addition to classes in substance abuse education, social adjustment, GED preparation, and financial management. Also, participation in Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) will be encouraged.

The setting will be a working farm where residents raise crops and livestock both for their own consumption and to sell to area markets.

SUMMER BAZAAR SET

The Tyler County MHMR Center and Sheltered Workshop will have a summer bazaar on August 2 at the center, 203 Willow St. Some of the attractions at the bazaar will be a Country Store, a Sweet Shop, food and drink stands, and game booths to win prizes.

Proceeds from the bazaar will go to the Tyler County Mentally and Physically Handicapped Association, a positive support group which supplements the center's income.

CRISIS LINE

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

Directions Newsletter

August, 1986

Page 2

SERVICE DELIVERY COMMITTEE
RECONVENES

By request of Jim McDermott, Ph.D., the Ad Hoc Committee on Service Delivery will reconvene on August 1, 1986. Last spring, the committee was tasked with developing a service delivery philosophy that would provide both mental health and mental retardation clients with a range of services from complete institutionalization to complete independence. The committee will be revitalized to incorporate their recommendations where financially and programatically feasible as the center undergoes a transition of compliance with the new JCAH consolidated standards. Members include: Nancy Jones, Chairperson, Marty Walker, John Wilson, Kathy Thomas, Mark Severns, Joe McCulley, and George Patterson. Marilyn Hankla and Marsha Ford have been asked to join the committee.

JASPER/NEWTON MHMR CENTER TO
REBUILD

Plans for the rebuilding of the Jasper/Newton MHMR Center, which was damaged by fire in April of 1986, are now underway.

The Community Development Grant awarded to the center earlier this year, will have provisions for a 6,000-sq.-ft. new building, which will include a covered shed for parking. This building will house therapy services, the business office, the service director's office, the sheltered workshop, and a community meeting room for the center. Also provided by the grant will be a new greenhouse, complete with its own heating and cooling system.

The grant will provide a new roof on a building in which the roof was lost in the fire. The business center, which includes the resale shop, the antique shop and the herb shop, will also be rebuilt at this time. The Case Management Program will use a room in this building for a pottery and basket weaving center, to be manned by clients.

KIRBYVILLE DC SPONSORS
CAKE SALE

May 17 was the date of the cake sale sponsored by the Kirbyville Developmental Center, held during the grand opening of the Bear's Den Recreation Center on Hwy. 96 South. Those employees involved in organizing and planning the event were Judy Lohrer, Shelia Johnson, Cassy Drake, and Vonzetta Samuel.

Several church groups were involved in helping to make the event a success, including First Methodist Church and Kirbyville Church of Christ. Homemade candy, cookies, and about 70 cakes were sold during the sale.

DIAGNOSIS & EVALUATION TEAM
PREPARES FOR MOVE

"Family Support Services" is a possible name for the building at 1915 Old Mill Rd. in Lufkin, which will soon house the Diagnosis and Evaluation Team. The team is tentatively scheduled to relocate to this building from the Central Administration building on or around September 1.

Major renovations to the building will include new carpet, wallpaper, and a few coats of paint. Marsha Ford, Service Director for the D & E team, explained that this will help to provide a brighter, more pleasant atmosphere in which to work. Most of the building will be used to office space for the D & E team and the Continuity of Care staff.

A basic skills unit for low functioning mentally retarded clients, as well as respite care service to mentally retarded clients throughout the 13-county region, will be provided in this building. Four respite care beds will also be placed in the building.

Marsha said she was hopeful that some in-home services could be established in the near future.

ICF CERTIFICATION BEING SOUGHT BY
KIRBYVILLE GROUP HOME

The Kirbyville Group Home has recently submitted an application to the Texas Department of Health to become certified as an ICF-MR Level-5 facility. The initial program survey by the Department of Health should take place in late August.

Directions Newsletter

August, 1986

Page 3

MHMR BUDGET HEARING

Deep East Texas MHMR regional administrators headed by Executive Director Jim McDermott were in Austin Monday, July 21, 1986 to present the FY 1987 budget proposal and performance contract measures before TDMHMR officials for approval.

The new budget totals \$7,291,050 for the fiscal year beginning September 1, 1986.

The hearing took place from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. at TDMHMR Central Office in Austin. Attending for MHMR in addition to Dr. McDermott were Susan Rushing, George Patterson, Larry Heaton, and Sandy Skelton. Representing TDMHMR were regional assistant deputy commissioners, Carolee Moore, Inman White, and Jim King.

In addition to the fiscal budget, TDMHMR must also approve certain performance measures that make up the contract under which the funds are allocated.

"There were only a few minor issues brought up in the hearing that were easily resolved," commented Sandy Skelton who attended the hearing for MHMR.

The majority of time was taken in going over the service "Menus" and other narrative material that describe the configuration of program components MHMR hopes to operate during the coming year.

SUPPORT GROUP WILL ORGANIZE

"Hope and New Faces," a support group for family and friends of persons with cranial-facial deformities is being organized locally, according to Judy Skeeters, group sponsor.

The support group will be for interested persons in both Nacogdoches and the surrounding area. Interested persons may contact Ms. Skeeters at (409) 569-7384.

SHELTER TO STAY OPEN DESPITE BUDGET CUTS

The Women's Shelter of East Texas in Nacogdoches will remain open and in operation, Linda Duke, executive director, has announced.

The Nacogdoches shelter will continue offering services and housing to victims of domestic violence, Ms. Duke said. "The board and staff of the shelter will not let funding losses threaten our program," she said, referring to the budget cuts. She also explained that the shelter will continue the program as usual, until necessary changes are made.

DONATION MADE TO JASPER MHMR CENTER

The Jasper County MHMR Center recently received cash and checks amounting to \$1,800 from the Jasper Wal-Mart and the Wal-Mart associates. \$900 was raised by the local store through bake sales, a dunking booth, and individual donations. The amount was matched by the Wal-Mart Foundation.

NEW SUPERINTENDENT NAMED AT LUFKIN STATE SCHOOL

Harry G. Heyman, director of the Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation of Amarillo State Center, has been named as new superintendent of Lufkin State School.

Heyman, a Chicago, Illinois native, served in the U.S. Marine Corps during the Korean war era. He returned home from his military career to attend Northern Illinois University in DeKalb, graduating with a bachelor of science degree in special education. He then accepted an employment opportunity at Richmond State School in Texas, where he served as director of Student Life and Training. In 1972 he became director of Special Programs at Amarillo State Center, moving up to become the Center's director in 1974.

Directions Newsletter

August, 1986

Page 4

REGIONAL REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING

August 19, 1986 is the date of the next meeting of the Regional Review Committee. During this meeting applications for grants from the Texas Department of Community Affairs will be reviewed. This is the regional hearing for the grant application by the Angelina County MHMR Center.

GOODBYE AND GOOD LUCK

Departing from MHMR during the month of July were: V.L. McKelvey, Pineywoods Regional Treatment Center (7/17/86) and Anna Walker, Hardin MHMR Center (7/31/86).

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.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU

Best wishes to all staff members celebrating birthdays during the month of August:

Rose Corder, Carol Dohanich, Wanda Moss, Kathy Murphy and Barbara Nettles.

Iris Nichols, Robbie Patterson, McKenzie Scott, Mark Severns and Mae Spencer.

LaVerne Thomas, Joyce Tutt, Marty Walker, Trudy Cellars and Imogene Kimes.

GLAD TO HAVE YOU

As of July 25, new employees during the month of July are: Christopher Doane, Pineywoods Regional Treatment Center; Cynthia Lawrence, Shelby Developmental Center; Arvy Jones, Newton Group Home; Angela Holloway, Shelby Developmental Center; Richard Irving, Hardin Sheltered Workshop; and Edward Sissom, Houston MHMR.

NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

Deep East Texas Regional MHMR 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.

Deep East Texas Regional MHMR Services
4101 South Medford Drive
Lufkin, TX 75901

NON - PROFIT ORG.
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
LUFKIN, TEXAS
PERMIT NO. 4