



MHMR

Directions Newsletter

Volume 13, No. 2
October, 1986

OCT. 21 AWARDS CEREMONY WILL HONOR MHMR VOLUNTEERS

About 200 guests are expected to attend the 10th Annual Volunteer Recognition Banquet hosted Oct. 21 by the staff and Board of Trustees of Deep East Texas MHMR Services.

The awards ceremony will be held at 7 p.m. in the Lufkin Civic Center and will include dinner, an awards ceremony and entertainment by the Angelina College Singers under the direction of Charles Stevens.

Approximately 60 awards will be presented to those volunteers who accumulated 100, 500, 1,000, 1,500 or 2,000 hours of volunteer work during the last fiscal year, said Gwen Cunningham, director of volunteer programs.

Though no awards are presented to those volunteers whose hours of service fall between these categories, Cunningham stressed that the intent of the banquet is to honor all MHMR volunteers.

All volunteers from the 13-county region are invited to the banquet. Also invited are people who made donations to MHMR in the last fiscal year, members of the local advisory councils, regional committee members, and county judges and commissioners.

Invitations for the banquet were mailed at the end of September.

Cunningham encourages MHMR staff members to contact their local volunteers and help arrange transportation to the banquet.

CONCEPTS OF CARE SEEKS GRANT FOR FREE VAN SERVICE

Concepts of Care has applied for a grant to purchase 12 specially-equipped vehicles, three with lifts, which would be used to provide door-to-door service at no charge for the elderly and handicapped.

The services would cover the same 13-county region encompassed by Deep East Texas MHMR. The vans would provide transportation to local and long-distance medical facilities and shopping.

The \$299,250 grant application received the highest endorsement possible from the DETCOG Grants Application Review Committee on Sept. 18 and now must go before a board of the Texas Department of Highways and Public Transportation.

Unfortunately, the news is not all good. According to the Lufkin Daily News, Ann Colby-Camp of the highway department's regional office in Beaumont indicated funds for the grant might not be available.

In the past, grant money for this type of project was made available through federal funding from the Urban Mass Transit Administration. According to Colby-Camp, however, mass transit is one of the president's major areas for funding cuts.

The availability of funds will depend on a federal appropriations bill now being debated by Congress, she said.

"The money may not be available," Colby-Camp said. "The state of Texas might not be allocated any money, or the money we are allocated may be cut. Who knows?"

Directions Newsletter

October, 1986 -- Page 2

TWO MHMR EMPLOYEES WELCOME PITTER-PATTER OF LITTLE FEET

It's a girl -- and a boy!

Two MHMR staffers became parents in September.

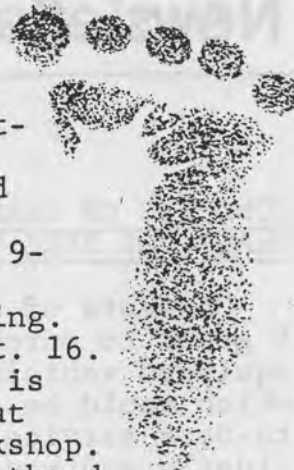
Kristen and Richard Irving are the proud parents of a 6-pound, 9-ounce baby girl named Brittany Kathleen Irving. Brittany was born Sept. 16.

Her papa, Richard, is workshop coordinator at the Hardin County Workshop.

Also enjoying parenthood are Debbie and Robby Patterson. Debbie gave birth to a 7-pound, 6-ounce baby boy on Sept. 23.

The baby has been named Brian Timothy Patterson. Brian's dad is director of psychology services at the Pineywoods Treatment Center.

Congratulations, Moms and Dads.



PAUL JACKSON RECEIVES AWARD FROM ALCOHOL, DRUG ABUSE COUNCIL

The Deep East Texas Regional Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse presented Paul Jackson, service director at the Nacogdoches MHMR center, with an award for outstanding community service.

Jackson and several others were honored at the council's third annual awards banquet on Sept. 18.

Jackson has served on the council's board of directors for several years. Over the past 13 years he has been involved in alcohol programming and direct service by providing counseling, teaching DWI classes and educating the public on the effects of alcohol and drug abuse.

TYLER VOLUNTEERS TOSSING TOGETHER SEMIANNUAL "SALAD-TASTING TEA"

If you have a hankering for salads, Tyler County MHMR has your number.

Volunteers for the center's workshop will be hosting the semiannual "Salad-Tasting Tea" from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday, Oct. 31 at the MHMR center and workshop in Woodville.

Between 50 and 55 salads will be served for the delight of area taste-buds. Joyce Crowson, treasurer of Volunteers for the Sheltered Workshop, said.

Tickets cost \$3 and can be purchased at the door.

All salads and desserts are donated by the community and workshop volunteers. Crackers, tea and coffee are included in the ticket price.

Crowson said the Salad-Tasting Tea is the biggest fundraiser sponsored by the workshop volunteers. Between 150 and 180 people are expected to turn out for the event, she said.

With the money raised from this and other events, volunteers sponsor parties, field trips and special meals for MHMR clients in Tyler, Crowson explained. They have also purchased equipment for the center such as a lawnmower and yard tools.

PURCHASE & SUPPLY OFFICE RELOCATES

The purchase and supply office, under the supervision of Rose Barton, moved out of the Angelina County MHMR Center at the end of September.

The office is now located at Central Administration in Lufkin.

After Oct. 3, supplies will no longer be distributed at staff development meetings due to the increasing size of orders, Barton said.

After that date, all supplies must be picked up at Central Administration, 4101 South Medford Drive.

Directions Newsletter

October, 1986 -- Page 3

SUNSET COMMISSION'S SEPT. REPORT COULD AFFECT COMMUNITY MHMR CENTERS

The Sunset Advisory Commission issued a report in September recommending 91 changes within TDMHMR.

TDMHMR has submitted its response to the recommendations, and representatives from the agency planned to address members of the commission at hearings on Sept. 26.

Hazel Casler, public information officer for TDMHMR, said the commission's initial report was the first step in a series of actions that would eventually lead to the proposal of a bill at the next session of the Texas Legislature.

In part, the evaluation of TDMHMR programs indicated that "some statutory adjustments should be made to further define...the relationship between TDMHMR and community MHMR centers."

The report recommended that "TDMHMR should not control programs that do not receive state funds and do not use funds that are part of the required local match."

The report also suggested a means be established by which contract disputes between TDMHMR and community programs can be fairly settled.

Some other suggestions that could affect community MHMR centers include:

- * Quality- and program-performance evaluations of community-based services should be conducted on an annual basis, and such audits should focus on specific results rather than administrative processes and procedures.
- * TDMHMR and community MHMR centers should be authorized to file liens on all non-exempt property of clients or the parents of minor clients for the amount owed for MHMR services.

(Continued next column)

- * The report pointed out that TDMHMR pays more for serving a client in a state school or hospital than it pays to serve the same type of client in a community program. To encourage development of community programs, it was suggested that funds saved through population reduction at these institutions be used to equalize the rates paid to community MR and mental health programs.
- * TDMHMR's statutory purpose and policy statement should be amended to require that the agency actively solicit proposals from community providers for the operation of extended care units and transitional living units in a community setting. These units are now operated in state hospitals.
- * Savings could be realized by changing residential zoning restrictions to allow an increase from six clients per group home to eight for those houses with day staff only.
- * Restrictions should be placed on the use of provider-contract funds of the "\$35.50 program" to ensure that community-based mental health services are developed as people are diverted from state hospitals.

CRISIS LINE

In an emergency, call
the MHMR Crisis Line:

1-800-392-8343

Directions Newsletter

October, 1986 -- Page 4

RESPIRE PROGRAM TO OPEN SOON; RELIEF FOR CARETAKERS IN SIGHT

Deep East Texas MHMR's new respite program, located at the Family Support Services center in Lufkin, will hopefully begin servicing clients sometime in October.

Cindy Linney, respite care coordinator, said they are still waiting for the arrival of some major equipment before opening their doors to the public.

"The purpose of the program is to give parents and/or caretakers of MR clients the opportunity to take a break and get away from it all," Linney said.

Three forms of respite care will be offered, she said. They include:

Sitter Companion Service

Trained personnel are sent into the client's home to relieve the caretaker for a few hours or several days.

Foster Respite Care

Community families take clients into their homes to provide relief to caretakers.

Residential Respite Care

Clients are temporarily placed in the Lufkin State School. If no appropriate beds are available at the school, the client can be housed in the 4-bed unit at Family Support Services on Old Mill Road in Lufkin.

Linney indicated that the length of respite care will probably be limited to a maximum of 14 days.

Linney is in the process of compiling a registry of individuals who can be employed for the program on an as-needed basis.

ANGELINA MHMR LANDS CONTRACT WITH HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

The Angelina County MHMR workshop program has entered into a new contract to provide janitorial services for the Texas State Department of Highways and Public Transportation.

The contract, which provides for the cleaning of the department's six office buildings on North Timberland Drive in Lufkin, begins Oct. 1.

The job will provide full-time employment for four MHMR clients and one staff supervisor.

JASPER GROUNDBREAKING GOES WELL

While wet weather threatened to make the Jasper groundbreaking a washout, rainclouds restrained themselves, and the ceremony went off without a hitch.

Governor Mark White addressed a crowd of several hundred which turned out to celebrate the construction of a new MHMR facility in Jasper.

Judge Allen Sturrock, Tyler County chairman of the Deep East Texas MHMR Board of Trustees, Judge Harold Kennedy of Jasper County and the governor shared the honor of manning shovels at the groundbreaking.

Following the ceremony, White and his wife toured the existing Jasper facility and stayed to chat with those in attendance.

An April 4 fire destroyed one of three buildings comprising the center. In June, White announced that a \$250,000 grant to replace the building would be made available through the community development program of the Texas Department of Community Affairs.

Construction should begin in February.

Directions Newsletter

October, 1986 -- Page 5

SOMETHING FUN THIS WAY COMES

"IT's Coming Friday, Nov. 14!" But only John Wilson, new service director at the Jasper MHMR center, knows what "It" is.

And Wilson isn't telling.

The first indication of "Its" imminent arrival appeared in September. A sign at the Jasper center informed clients and staff of "Its" forthcoming arrival.

The only additional clue to "Its" identity was contained in a second clue which mysteriously appeared after rumors spread that "It" was an audit.

The second sign nixed this rumor. Clue number two promised: "It's Fun."

With all the anticipation this is raising, "It" had better be good.



FOUR MHMR EMPLOYEES INTO SCHOOL GROOVE

There are graduates in our midsts.

Barbara Holcomb and Cassy Drake have both recently completed work on their master's degrees, and other employees continue to crack the books.

Holcomb has completed her master's in education from the University of Texas at Austin. Her degree has an emphasis on early childhood special education.

Drake has just finished work on a master's in special education from Lamar University in Beaumont.

Meanwhile, Marilyn Hankla has started work on a master's in guidance and counseling from SFA.

Holcomb, Drake and Hankla are all service directors in the community services division.

In addition, Marjorie Mueller, R.N. at the Nacogdoches MHMR center, is reported to be on the verge of completing a master's in education from UT.

SHELBY MHMR SEEKS CERTIFICATION BY COMMISSION ON ALCOHOL, DRUG ABUSE

In concurrence with a new state law which went into effect Jan. 1, Shelby MHMR is undergoing a new certification procedure.

The law now requires all programs treating substance abusers to be certified by the Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse.

Eight of the 28 beds at the Shelby MHMR are to be reserved for substance abusers. Certification will allow the center to once again open its doors to those suffering from drug and alcohol dependency.

In seeking certification, Shelby MHMR was toured by a surveyor of the TCADA on Sept. 24-26. Upon completion of this survey, the facility is given a time frame during which it must address any deficiencies cited in the survey.

Sandy Skelton, director of residential programs, said the Shelby MHMR is very confident of receiving certification.

He noted that once the proposed Pineywoods Alcohol and Drug Users Rehabilitation Center in Angelina County is completed, substance abuse clients will be transferred out of Shelby MHMR into this new facility.

KIRBYVILLE SCOUTS CAMP OUT

During September, Boy Scout Troop #901 from the Kirbyville Group Home attended the 13th Annual Boy Scout Catholic Retreat.

Two staff members accompanied the clients on the overnight trip which entailed hiking, fishing and a night camped out under the stars.

All tents and equipment were supplied by Camp Ureland, the sight of the retreat.

Camp Ureland is located near Woodville.

Directions Newsletter

October, 1986 -- Page 6

LICENSURE COULD LEAD TO STATE FUNDING FOR KIRBYVILLE

On Sept. 22, the Texas State Department of Health conducted a facility survey at the Kirbyville Group Home.

The home, which opened in July of 1985, is seeking ICF/MR Level 5 licensure which will make it eligible to receive state funding of \$45.45 per day/per client.

The facility survey will be followed by a program survey in two to three weeks.

Sandy Skelton, director of residential services for MHMR, said he is confident the home will be licensed.

Licensure is not required of group homes for the mentally retarded, Skelton said. He described it as a voluntary procedure which "ensures quality care for clients."

Once the Kirbyville home is approved for licensure, it will share this distinction with two other MHMR group homes -- the Nacogdoches Halfway House and the JoAnn Fries House in Silsbee.

The Newton Group Home will then be the only unlicensed MHMR facility of this type in the Deep East Texas region.

The Newton home will seek licensure in the near future, Skelton said.

TYLER MHMR IN PARKING-LOT HEAVEN

Work on the new parking lot and driveway at Tyler County MHMR has been completed, Service Director Larry King said.

There will be no more parking in the grass and tromping through mud puddles for these folks.

While the center supplied materials for the project, the work was performed by the county at no charge.

The staff appreciates the improvement with all their soles.



HALLOWEEN HOOPLA

Things are getting eerie around the Hardin County Workshop.

The staff and clients at the workshop and JoAnn Fries Group Home are whipping up some spooky fun for their annual Halloween carnival.

The carnival, which is open to the public, will feature a variety of activities such as a spook house, fortune teller, cake walk and assorted games with prizes. And, if all goes as planned, there will be a costume judging contest.

In addition, several business and community organizations in the area are expected to contribute to the event by setting up food booths.

Local Boy Scouts will be helping at the cotton candy machine and with the games.

The carnival will be held from 6 to 9 p.m., Friday, Oct. 31 at the Hardin County Workshop, Highway 96 in Silsbee.

Be there and be scared.

* * * *

Also on the 31st, a combination Halloween and birthday party will be held at the MHMR community house on Elizabeth St. in Kirbyville.

Clowns, dancing and refreshments will provide entertainment at the affair. Guest are encouraged to come in costume.

Staff and clients from the Kirbyville and Newton group homes and the workshop will attend. Some members of the community will also be invited to share refreshments and meet with clients.

Directions Newsletter

October, 1986 -- Page 7

SUPPORT GROUP DONATES LAWN MOWER

The Houston County MHMR center is the proud owner of a new riding lawn mower valued at approximately \$1,000.

The mower was donated by the center's support group, the Association for Handicapped Persons. It will be used in fulfilling the workshop's highway department contract.

The major source of income for the support group is its resale shop, located on Sixth St. in Crockett, which has been in business since 1983, Larry Welker, service director, said.

Welker extended thanks to the association for its continued support.



JASPER CENTER TO HAVE BOOTH AT OCT. 4 INDIAN SUMMER FESTIVAL

Folks at the Jasper MHMR are gearing up for the Jasper County Indian Summer Festival, an artsy-craftsy extravaganza set for Saturday, Oct. 4.

Staff and clients of the center will man a booth from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the square in Jasper.

Kathy Lockhart, sheltered workshop director, said the central focus of the booth will be food since past years have proven this to be the most lucrative investment.

The booth will offer chicken salad sandwiches, cheese soup and baked goods. Lockhart noted that overhead for the food booth is fairly low as members of the community often provide raw ingredients for the baked goods.

Plants and herbs from the center's greenhouse will also be on sale.

In addition, Lockhart said they will be selling chances for a football donated to the center and signed by the Dallas Cowboys. Ticket sales will continue through the day of the raffle which is tentatively set for Super Bowl Sunday.

DINNER-DANCE BANQUET DRAWS 90; 'EXTRAVAGANT EVENING' A SUCCESS

It looked like a scene from "Saturday Night Fever," minus John Travolta.

Colored lights and strobes illuminated the dance floor at the dinner-and-dance banquet arranged by the Nacogdoches Halfway House and Goodwin-Wade Enterprises.

Clients from the Nacogdoches house and the four Lufkin group homes of Goodwin-Wade were honored guests at the Sept. 20 affair which drew a crowd of 90, Nancy Jones, service director at Nacogdoches MHMR, said.

Welcoming speeches were delivered by Jones and Goodman-Wade Program Director Bill Harrison, and all 45 honored guests were introduced to the crowd.

A steak dinner was followed by "two hours of wild dancing," Jones said.

"It was an extravagant evening," she said of the semiformal affair. Participants were dressed to kill, many sporting corsages and boutonnieres.

Teenagers from the First Methodist Church's youth fellowship donated sound equipment and provided music for those who dared to show their stuff on the dance floor.

The banquet was held in the Twilight Ballroom at SFA.

The event was such a success that plans are being laid for an encore sometime in July, Jones said.

WHOOOPS

Apologies to Dorothy Moore and Mark Taxter who were inadvertently omitted from our list of new September employees in the last issue of Directions.

Both are working in MHMR Infant Intervention Programs. Moore is working in Shelby County and Taxter in San Augustine.

Directions Newsletter

October, 1986 -- Page 8

MHMR TO BE REPRESENTED AT POULTRY FESTIVAL

MHMR services in Shelby County will be represented at the county's Poultry Festival this year.

The Shelby County MHMR Auxiliary will have a booth set up at the fair which runs Oct. 2 through 4 on the square in Center.

For \$1, visitors at the booth will have their mental health "analyzed" by a computer supplied by Center Office Products.

Each so-called "analysis" will be accompanied by a humorous recommendation on how to treat the condition, Jean Minor, auxiliary chairman, said.

The auxiliary, which formed a little over 10 months ago, will also be selling \$1 chances for a hand-made afghan. An MHMR client will draw the winning raffle ticket on the last day of the festival, Oct. 4.

STUDIES INDICATE MEDIA HYPE LEADS TO RISE IN TEEN SUICIDES

Two studies from the New England Journal of Medicine indicate that TV news reports and TV movies dealing with suicide cause a rise in the number of teenagers taking their own lives.

Research concluded teen suicides rose an average of 6.87 percent following such broadcasts.

One researcher described the behavior as "teen-age imitative suicide."

Pamela Cantor, vice chairwoman of the National Committee for Youth Suicide Prevention, suggests media refrain from sensationalizing the issue.

"I would not stop educating (teens)," she told United Press International. "But this reporting of each and every event should stop."



MORE THAN 95
CONTRIBUTE TO
MHMR ENTRY
IN COUNTY PARADE

More than 95 people pitched in to make San Jacinto MHMR's parade entry at the county fair a big success.

San Jacinto Advisory Council members distributed eight hundred fliers asking area elementary school children to "march for MHMR."

Each marcher donated a quarter and received an "I Walked for the MR Kids" badge to wear in the Sept. 25 parade.

Additional help came from the Evergreen Study and Stitchery Club which donated \$25, and Cub Scout Den #2, Pack 854 which made a \$5 donation.

The Cub Scout troupe headed up the walk and carried banners for the MHMR parade entry.

Money donated by the marchers will go into a van fund which the San Jacinto center started over a year ago.

The van, when purchased, will be used to transport San Jacinto County clients to the MHMR workshop in Polk County.

As another fund-raising project for the van, the center is selling raffle tickets for a painting and a child's rocker. Tickets cost 50 cents each.

ADIOS, AMIGA

Goodbye and good luck to Jan Lamar, member of MHMR's Diagnosis and Evaluation Team, who left employment with Deep East Texas MHMR in September.

Directions Newsletter

October, 1986 -- Page 9

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Two workshops which may be of interest to MHMR staffers are slated for the beginning of October.

On Saturday, Oct. 4, a workshop entitled "The Educational Rights of Handicapped Children" will be presented from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Texas Power and Light meeting room, 204 E. Burke Ave. in Lufkin.

Additional information on the workshop, which is sponsored by the Kiwanis Club, can be obtained by contacting Barbara Braly with the Texas Commission for the Blind, at 634-7733.

On Thursday, Oct. 9, three faculty members from the University of Texas Medical School-Houston will be among speakers addressing the eighth annual Perinatal Workshop in Nacogdoches.

There is no charge for the workshop which runs from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Ramada Inn.

The conference is designed to update professionals concerned with pregnancy and newborn health on the latest developments in the field. It is sponsored by the Greater East Texas Chapter of the March of Dimes and Mead Johnson Pharmaceutical Co.

For more information, contact Carla Hairston at 564-1188 in Nacogdoches.

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 designated 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.

SIX GRADUATE FROM ANGELINA IIP

In August, the Infant Intervention Program of Angelina County was proud of the tots toddling down the graduation aisle.

There were six infant graduates who received diplomas and were welcomed into the Lufkin Independent School District. They will enter into the Early Childhood Program.

Thanks are extended to the staff and the Adult Day Treatment clients at Angelina MHMR Center for preparing the refreshments and participating in the graduation ceremonies.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!

The following staff members are celebrating October birthdays:

Loyce Belanger, Ruby Greer, Marilyn Hankla, Lee Jones, Carolyn McDonald, Wilma Parrott, Benny Russell, Glenna Bolen, Johnelle Thorn, Betty White, Fay Williams, John Wilson, Delores Keeland and Sharon Yarbrough.

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.

INFORMATION FOR THE "DIRECTIONS NEWSLETTER" SHOULD BE SENT TO SHERYL TAYLOR AT CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION.